Exploring the Role and Benefits of ChatGPT AI in Enhancing Students' Fiction Writing Literacy: Insights from Learner Experiences

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Abstract. This study explores the perspectives of literature students on utilizing ChatGPT, an AI-powered tool, in creative writing. Focusing on 30 English literature students from Universitas Negeri Medan, the research examines the effectiveness of ChatGPT in fostering creativity, its perceived benefits and challenges, and its role in the writing process. Data were collected via questionnaires and analyzed thematically. The findings reveal that ChatGPT significantly enhances creativity, with students rating it highly for its ability to inspire ideas and improve the writing process. The tool was praised for accelerating the writing process and improving writing confidence. However, challenges such as the need for revisions and limitations in contextual understanding were also noted. Despite these drawbacks, the overall sentiment remained positive, with many participants feeling that the benefits of using ChatGPT outweighed its limitations. This study underscores ChatGPT's potential as a valuable tool in literary education, supporting students' creative autonomy and enriching their writing experiences. This is evidenced by data highlighting the effectiveness of ChatGPT in speeding up the writing process (60%), increasing creativity (46.67%), and increasing confidence in writing (40%), despite challenges such as unmet expectations (46.67%) and requires a lot for revision (33.33%).

Keywords: ChatGPT AI, Fiction Writing, Literacy, Learner Experiences

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, technological advances in the form of Artificial Intelligence have entered various fields of art, used by creators, artists and writers in the process of creating their works. Writers use AI (Artificial Intelligence) to help them create creative writing works. Some systems in AI can emulate legendary writers' styles, allowing for new narrative possibilities (Nadeem, 2023). The role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) is growing rapidly in the creative writing context, as the technology produced can help writers enrich their language and create creative stories.

Mohammed (2019) stated creative writing competencies include the information, skills, talents, and attitudes that learners want to enhance in order to develop their particular capacities for producing both fiction and non-fiction works. With AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology, writers can enrich their fictional works by utilizing AI in developing storylines and helping them become more imaginative. This story development is not only about creativity in writing fiction, but also expanding the scope in the field of literature.

Students exhibit increased engagement with narrative techniques, character development, and a deeper comprehension of the broader literature landscape when given the chance to compose fiction within their literary studies. The experiential approach prioritizes the distinctive interaction between the reader and the text, seeing literary enjoyment as an

aesthetic process (Gabrielsen et al., 2019). Fiction prioritizes comprehension and the cultivation of interpretations as the student's own literary creation.

Historically, fiction writing was learned using traditional techniques such as workshops, peer review, and mentorship from accomplished authors. These conventional methodologies emphasize attentive reading, iterative writing, and critical feedback. However, current ways are increasingly using digital tools and collaborative platforms, which combine technology with creativity. This move opens up new opportunities for students to experiment with story structures and obtain diverse viewpoints on their work. Technology in AI form includes language models so it can act as an assistant to writers to develop their work. Fitria (2021) stated AI (Artificial Intelligence) writing systems offer critical educational assistance. This encompasses recommendations that can improve writing quality, including the revision of text to increase lexical diversity and stylistic variation, as well as the identification of errors.

AI such as ChatGPT, can generate fiction text, suggest plot developments, and offer style enhancements, providing writers with a supportive interactive experience. The Chat-GPT system's proficiency in comprehending human language facilitates creative writing, including poems, short stories, novels, and other forms of writing that can match human quality (Shidiq, 2023).

This research aims to explore the aspects of creativity, confidence, and effectiveness that are enhanced by using ChatGPT in the creative writing process among literature students. It examines the perceived benefits and challenges of utilizing ChatGPT in creative writing and how these factors influence its overall effectiveness. Furthermore, the study investigates the roles ChatGPT plays at various stages of the writing process and how users adapt its output to align with their creative needs.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW
The role of AI in Creative Writing Skills

Creative writing is a fundamental skill in language and literature, offering students a platform to express their ideas, explore narrative techniques, and foster originality. Historically, creative writing has received little attention due to rigid curriculum structures and a focus on standardized assessments (Maninji, 2021). However, it plays a vital role in developing students' self-expression, narrative skills, and engagement with language (Maley, cited in Babaee, 2015). Creative writing encourages exploration across genres and allows students to experiment with imaginative storytelling, thereby revealing deeper truths about humanity

(Sălcudean & Stănescu, 2018). In addition, it provides psychological, social, and cognitive benefits, such as building self-esteem, fostering mutual respect, and deepening narrative abilities (Oral, 2003; Gunduz & Simsek, 2012).

Complementing these traditional methods, AI-powered writing tools such as ChatGPT have emerged as innovative tools to enhance creative writing skills. These tools leverage advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP) to provide real-time assistance, such as auto-completion, alternative phrases, and structural suggestions (Dale, 2021; Ginting & Barella, 2022). By simplifying the technical aspects of writing, AI allows students to focus on higher-level creative processes, such as refining storylines and developing characters. While concerns about dependency and misuse persist (Machicao, 2019), these tools can effectively augment creative expression when used as supplemental aids, empowering students without compromising their originality.

The integration of creative writing skills and AI tools underscores the evolving nature of the writing process. Together, they foster a balance between traditional human creativity and technological innovation, enabling students to achieve greater productivity, originality, and confidence in their creative endeavors.

As Dale (2021) explains, ChatGPT AI's most impactful contribution to writing lies in its capabilities for sentence and phrase autocompletion, as well as alternative wording suggestions. These tools utilize large language models made possible by artificial neural networks and machine learning which have revolutionized by processing vast amounts of data. According to Xu (2019), scaling these models has enhanced their performance, making them capable of handling multiple tasks with minimal training. Katy (2022) emphasizes that recent AI-powered writing tools often employ pre-trained language models, making them adaptable and efficient for various writing applications.

In conclusion, ChatGPT AI writing assistants hold considerable promise for enhancing writing skills, particularly in fiction. However, there are concerns regarding their overuse, potentially leading to an over-reliance on technology for creative processes traditionally viewed as innately human. These tools may best serve as supplementary aids, empowering students while allowing them to maintain control over their creative expression.

Fiction Writing in Literary Works

The narrative world of fiction encompasses essential elements like characters, events, settings, and perspectives, which are fundamental to creative writing (Temizkan, 2014). These elements are foundational in narrative texts, which are the focus of various studies emphasizing

their educational benefits. For instance, Coskun (2005) suggests that teaching story elements not only enhances reading comprehension but also cultivates students' creative and organizational thinking abilities.

Doyle's (1998) interdisciplinary study draws from phenomenology and explores the creative process of literary fiction. He identified two distinct states in the writing process: the "writing realm," where the writer reflects on and plans their work, and the "fiction world," a creative space where narrative elements emerge in real-time improvisation. The study further suggests that fiction writing differs from other creative domains because it relies heavily on narrative improvisation, allowing writers to explore viewpoints beyond their own.

In summary, creative writing has been explored through various academic perspectives, with both phenomenological and non-phenomenological approaches contributing valuable insights. Non-phenomenological studies often emphasize aspects like unconscious thought processes or the influence of "flow" on writing, while phenomenological studies focus on factors like the writer's environment, identity, and self-perception within the creative process.

This study is focused on 30 English literature students at Universitas Negeri Medan who have prior experience using AI more especially, ChatGPT to create fiction are the main subjects of this study. It looks at their opinions on the use of artificial intelligence in creative works, together incorporating the supposed benefits and difficulties. This study intends to explore the viewpoints of Universitas Negeri Medan literary students about their experiences applying ChatGPT as a fiction writing tool. Examining how these students view artificial intelligence's influence on literary production helps the study to identify both the advantages and the challenges these students face including ChatGPT integration into their writing process. In various regards, this research is important. Furthermore, it helps to clarify the changing link between artificial intelligence and creative writing, a subject of growing importance as AI tools are more included into learning environments.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study will employ a qualitative approach with an interpretative perspective. Interpretive research, as described by Ary et al. (2009), provides a descriptive account of a phenomenon, process, or specific perspective. A total of 30 English Literature students from the State University of Medan will be selected as research participants through purposive sampling due to their experiences with ChatGPT in fiction writing.

Data collection will involve distributing a Google Form questionnaire through the participants' WhatsApp contacts. The researcher has formulated several questions to address the research questions comprehensively. The collected data will be anonymized to protect participants' identities and will subsequently be analyzed descriptively to capture their perceptions.

Thematic analysis will be applied in this study. According to Braun and Clarke (2006), thematic analysis is a method for analyzing qualitative data that involves identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) in the data. The researcher will classify themes from each response, ensuring a thorough understanding of the students' perspectives. This approach will help identify patterns and connections among the responses, providing a comprehensive understanding of the impact of ChatGPT on their literary writing skills.

4. RESULT & DISCUSSION

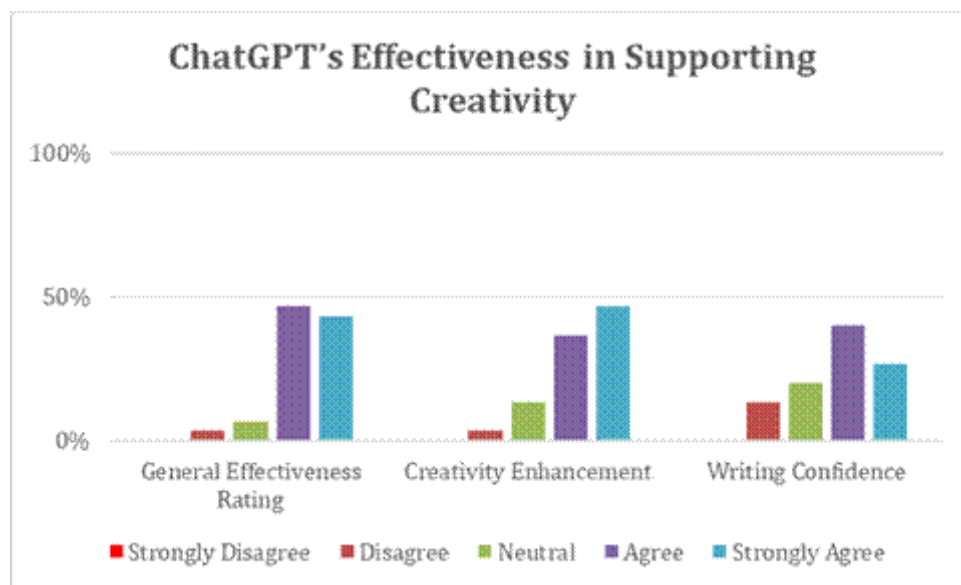**First Finding : ChatGPT's Effectiveness in Supporting Creativity**

Figure 1. Chart of ChatGPT's Effectiveness in Supporting Creativity

Based on the diagram figure above, students consider ChatGPT as an effective AI tool in terms of General Effectiveness, Creativity Enhancement, and Writing Confidence. ChatGPT is a tool in improving their writing creativity in fictional works. The data in the image above will be explained specifically in the table below.

Table 1. Finding of ChatGPT's Effectiveness in Supporting Creativity

Description	Criteria (%)				
	SD	D	N	A	SA

General Effectiveness Rating	0%	3.33%	6.67%	46.67%	43.33%
Creativity Enhancement	0%	3.33%	13.33%	36.67%	46.67%
Writing Confidence	0%	13.33%	20%	40%	26.67%

1. General Effectiveness

From the total of 30 participants, the majority of participants chose to agree (46.67%) and strongly agree (43.33%) that ChatGPT can help them generate ideas for writing and play an important role in the early stages of the writing process. A small number of participants rated ChatGPT neutral (6.67%) or disagree (3.33%), and no participants felt that ChatGPT was not effective at all. This high level of satisfaction highlights ChatGPT's ability to simplify the often challenging task of generating initial ideas.

2. Creativity Enhancement

The questionnaire results showed that students rated ChatGPT very well for its ability to enhance creativity. From the participants' responses, 46.67% strongly agreed and 36.67% agreed that ChatGPT reflected its strong impact in fostering creativity. Only a small portion rated it lower, with 13.33% choosing Neutral and 3.33% disagreeing. This shows that ChatGPT not only helps in generating ideas but also inspires new ways of thinking, encouraging users to explore creative avenues beyond their usual boundaries.

3. Confidence Buiding

In addition to enhancing creativity, ChatGPT also increased users' confidence in writing. The majority of participants agreed (40%) and strongly agreed (26.67%) that they felt more confident in their fiction writing skills after using ChatGPT. Only 20% remained neutral, and 13.33% disagreed with the statement. No participants strongly disagreed. Participants felt that ChatGPT helped reduce the intimidation often associated with the blank page by providing a structure and a pool of ideas to work with. This allowed them to focus on refining their content rather than struggling with where to start. This increased confidence also had a positive cascading effect, motivating participants to explore more complex ideas and engage in longer, more sustained creative endeavors.

Based on the percentage results above, the first research question can be answered. ChatGPT has proven to be highly effective in enhancing creativity during the writing process by acting as a dynamic tool that supports writers at various stages of idea development, drafting, and refinement. The tool acts as a creative collaborator, helping writers generate fresh and innovative ideas, refine complex narratives, and overcome challenges such as writer's

block or lack of direction. By providing a variety of prompts, alternative storylines, and style suggestions, ChatGPT empowers writers to explore perspectives they might not have considered on their own. The iterative feedback and tailored outputs boost confidence and foster a smoother creative process, making it an invaluable resource for overcoming blockages and opening up new creative possibilities. This adaptability and flexibility underscore its effectiveness as a tool for enhancing creativity, ensuring writers can focus more on the art of storytelling while relying on ChatGPT to streamline and expand their creative horizons.

Second Finding : Perceived Benefits and Challenges of ChatGPT
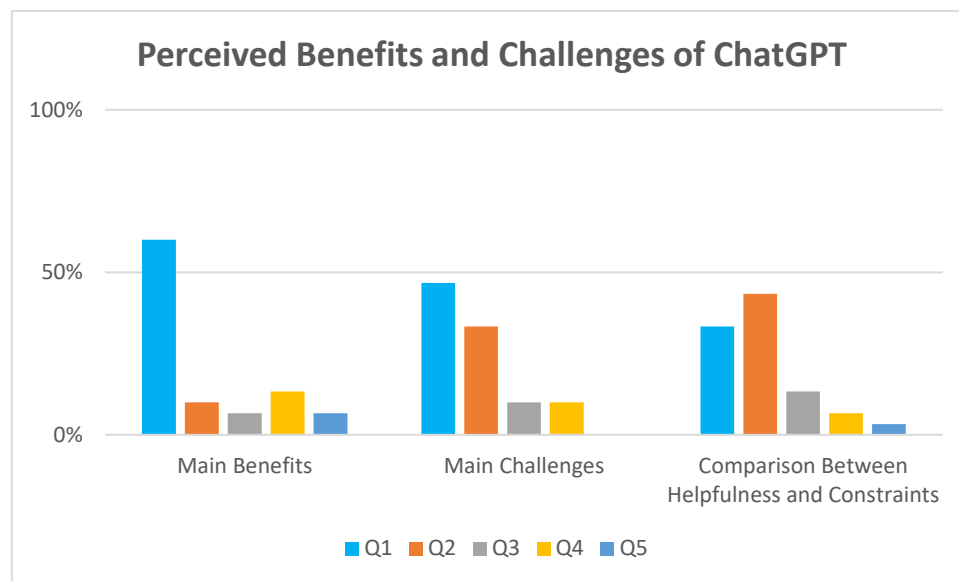

Figure 2. Chart of Benefits and Challenges from ChatGPT

The picture showed that students oftenly perceived main benefits, main challenge and also rate the helpfulness and constraints level of ChatGPT in their writing process. The data from the picture will be explained in the table below.

Table 2. Finding of Benefits and Challenges from ChatGPT

Code	Options	Percentage (%)
	Main Benefits	
Q1	Speeding up the writing process	60%
Q2	Provides new ideas	10%
Q3	Helps overcome writer's block	6,67%
Q4	Improves the quality of writing	13,33%
Q5	Saves time	6,67%
	Main Challenges	
Q1	Results did not meet expectations	46.67%

Q2	Requires a lot of revisions	33.33%
Q3	Limited creativity in AI results	10%
Q4	Not understanding the context deeply	10%
Q5	Limited access (internet, cost, etc.)	0%
	Comparison Between Helpfulness and Constraints	
Q1	Always helped	33.33%
Q2	Helped more often than constrained	43.33%
Q3	Balanced between helpful and constrained	13,33%
Q4	Constrained more often than helped	6.67%
Q5	Not helped at all	3.33%

1. Main Benefits

The reported benefits of ChatGPT were overwhelmingly positive. The tool was mainly recognized for speeding up the writing process (60%), highlighting its ability to accelerate brainstorming, drafting, and editing. Additionally, 10% of participants found it helpful in generating new ideas, while 6.67% mentioned that it helped them overcome writer's block. Some participants also noted that ChatGPT improved the quality of their writing (13.33%), indicating that the tool played a role in refining content. 6.67% of respondents also reported that ChatGPT helped them save time, enabling them to complete tasks more quickly without sacrificing quality.

2. Main Challenges

Despite its strengths, ChatGPT presented several challenges. A significant portion of respondents (46.67%) noted that the results did not meet their expectations, requiring extensive revisions to align the output with their goals. Additionally, 33.33% of participants mentioned the need to make many revisions, indicating that the tool's outputs were not always polished. Some participants (10%) also reported that ChatGPT had limited creativity and did not deeply understand the context, often producing generic or surface-level responses. However, no participants mentioned issues regarding limited access (such as internet or cost), suggesting that these were not significant concerns.

3. Balance Between Benefits and Challenges

When weighing the benefits against the challenges, 76.6% of respondents felt that the advantages of using ChatGPT outweighed the drawbacks. 33.33% of participants felt that

ChatGPT always helped them, and 43.33% stated that the tool was more often helpful than constrained. Only 6.67% felt that ChatGPT was constrained more often than it helped, and 3.33% found that the tool did not help at all. These findings suggest that while there are some challenges with the tool, its overall value in supporting the writing process remains significant, particularly in terms of idea generation and accelerating creative tasks.

While ChatGPT has some limitations, the overall results of participant responses indicate that ChatGPT's usefulness in supporting creative writing remains significant. Its combination of efficiency, inspiration, and adaptability positions it as a powerful ally for writers willing to look past its occasional shortcomings.

Third Finding : ChatGPT's Role in Writing Processes:
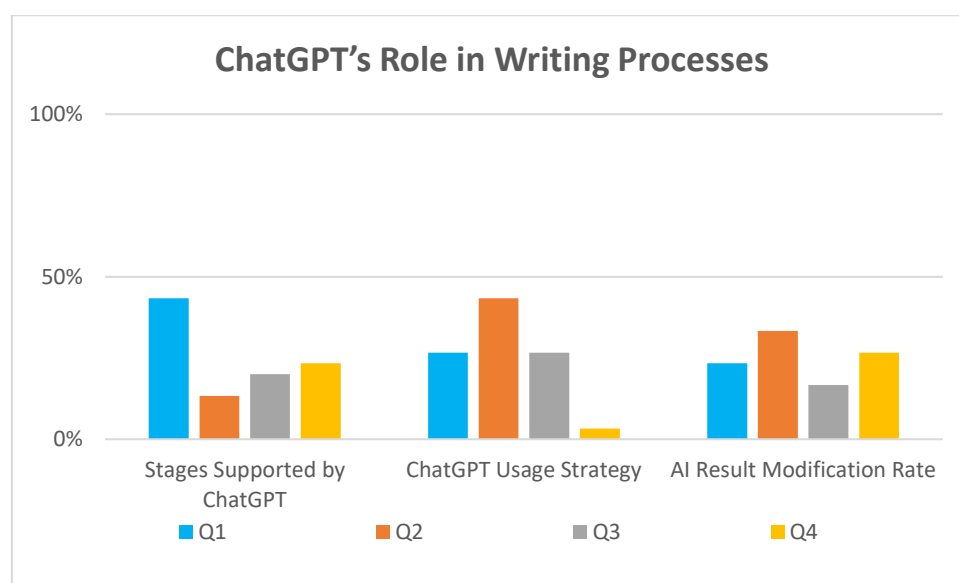

Figure 3. Chart of ChatGPT's Role in Writing Processes:

The picture showed the role of ChatGPT in the participant's writing process. Start from the stages that supported by ChatGPT they take, ChatGPT usage strategy, and also AI Result Modification Rate. The data in the picture will be explained in the table below.

Table 3. Finding of ChatGPT's Role in Writing Processes

Code	Options	Percentage (%)
	Stages Supported by ChatGPT	
Q1	To get an initial idea	43.33%
Q2	To develop a plot or storyline	13.33%
Q3	To edit or revise writing	20%
Q4	To get stylistic suggestions	23.33%
	ChatGPT Usage Strategy	

Q1	Initial idea stage	26,67%
Q2	Idea development stage	43.33%
Q3	First draft writing stage	26.67%
Q4	Revision stage	3.33%
	AI Result Modification Rate	
Q1	Always	23.33%
Q2	Often	33.33%
Q3	Sometimes	16.67%
Q4	Rarely	26.67%

1. Stages Supported by ChatGPT

Participants used ChatGPT at various stages of their writing process. The most common use was for idea generation, with 43.33% of participants using it to get initial ideas. Additionally, 13.33% of participants used it to develop a plot or storyline, while 23.33% turned to ChatGPT for stylistic suggestions and 20% used it to edit or revise writing. These findings indicate that ChatGPT plays a multifaceted role in supporting creativity, from sparking new ideas to enhancing the final piece through stylistic and structural improvements.

2. ChatGPT Usage Strategy

Participants reported different strategies for when ChatGPT was most helpful. The idea development stage (43.33%) emerged as the most common stage where ChatGPT was used. 26.67% of participants found it helpful at the initial idea stage, while another 26.67% used it during the first draft writing stage. Notably, only 3.33% of participants found ChatGPT helpful in the revision stage, suggesting that the tool is most effective during earlier stages of the writing process, such as idea generation and plot development.

3. AI Result Modification Rate

When it comes to modifying ChatGPT-generated content, 23.33% of participants reported that they always modified the results before integrating them into their final work, while 33.33% stated they often made modifications. 16.67% of participants sometimes adjusted the content, and 26.67% did so rarely. Only 6.67% of participants never modified the content. This highlights that while ChatGPT is a powerful tool for idea generation, users maintain significant control over the final output, ensuring it aligns with their creative vision.

To answer the third research question, the researchers concluded that users found ChatGPT helpful at various stages of the writing process, integrating its output in a way that increased efficiency and creativity. During the brainstorming phase, ChatGPT assisted in generating unique ideas and conceptualizing concepts, providing a solid foundation for writing. In the drafting phase, ChatGPT offered initial content, frameworks, or alternative approaches, allowing users to quickly move from idea to execution. During revision, ChatGPT was effective in refining language, increasing coherence, and offering suggestions to improve the quality of the text. Additionally, in the editing phase, ChatGPT served as a tool to proofread and ensure clarity, making the final product more polished. This integration of ChatGPT across stages demonstrates its adaptability and value as a versatile writing companion, seamlessly complementing users' skills and enhancing the overall writing process.

5. CONCLUSION

This study emphasizes the significant impact of AI, especially ChatGPT, in enhancing creative writing for literature students. The results indicate that ChatGPT greatly boosts creativity, helps to alleviate writer's block, and promotes confidence in writing. Many participants recognized its efficacy in idea generation, plot development, and stylistic refinement, showcasing its adaptability across the creative process.

A significant portion of participants (43.33%) assessed it as very effective, whereas 46.67% deemed it quite effective in idea generation. Furthermore, 83.34% of participants provided high ratings (scores 4 and 5) for ChatGPT in terms of enhancing creativity, highlighting its significance as a creative collaborator. 60% of participants acknowledged the tool's capacity to expedite the writing process, while others pointed out its contribution to enhancing writing quality (13.33%) and time efficiency (6.67%). While these advantages are noteworthy, certain challenges were also recognized, including the necessity for significant revisions (33.33%) and a sporadic absence of profound contextual comprehension (10%). Nonetheless, the general sentiment was favorable, as 76.6% of participants indicated that the benefits of utilizing ChatGPT surpassed its limitations.

With the growing integration of AI tools in educational and creative settings, there are notable opportunities and challenges that arise for the advancement of literature. The investigation highlights the significance of employing AI as an auxiliary tool, allowing students to harmonize technological support with their creative independence. By recognizing AI's

capabilities and acknowledging its constraints, educators and writers can transform the creative writing process, enhancing accessibility and fostering innovation in the digital era.

The findings highlight the significance of AI as a supportive tool in literary education, enabling students to harmonize technological aid with their creative independence. By acknowledging its limitations and enhancing its advantages, educators and writers can harness AI's potential to transform and elevate the creative writing process in the digital era.

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