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Here's what Essaymom thinks about the role of AI in writing admissions essays:

AI has limited value. If you use it, proceed with caution. Why?

The Times story quotes AI-written essays and they all have the same perky tone that just doesn't have the feel of sentences crafted by high school students. AI can spin chirpy paragraphs that are grammatically perfect, but there's a sameness to each line that feels like cheap peanut butter; It tastes ok, but not like actual peanuts were involved in making the stuff.

So, here's what I think: AI could be useful in coming up with a scaffolding about, say, your Starbucks job making Frappuccinos for hospital workers during covid. Beyond that, though, my sense is that AI will steer you away from your authentic voice -- the pricey peanut butter -- that makes an impression on admissions officers.

Your voice and your truth are imbedded in the very structure, length, and rhythm of each sentence. AI can't convey, believably, what it was like to serve those \$7 drinks to the overnight shift at the medical center. (Shout out to Eliza, the barista from Lexington, KY, who's settling in at Tulane as I write this).

I agree with the reporter's conclusion that "high school seniors hoping to stand out may need to do wholesale rewrites of the texts they prompt AI chatbots to generate."

I hope this is helpful.