

Writing Assignment: Week 4 (Part I, Creativity and AI)

In her paper, “*Creativity and Artificial Intelligence: A Contradiction in Terms?*”, Margaret Boden explores the philosophical and scientific boundaries of machine creativity. This assignment focuses on your ability to identify a central thesis or argument and the specific evidence the author uses to support it.

Instructions

Carefully read Boden’s text. Your task is to extract one specific argument (or thesis statement) and identify the evidence Boden provides to bolster that claim.

1. **Identify an Argument:** Select one specific claim Boden makes. This could be a broad thesis about the nature of AI or a more narrow argument regarding a specific type of creativity.
2. **Extract Evidence:** List at least two specific examples, citations, or logical proofs Boden uses to defend this argument.
3. **Analysis:** In 2–3 sentences, explain how the evidence directly supports the argument you identified.

Example

Argument: The claim that computers are incapable of generating apparently creative performance is an empirical claim that is demonstrably mistaken.

Evidence:

- AI-generated novel results have been exhibited in major international art galleries, including the Tate and MoMA.
- AI systems have been awarded patents, which legally require that an idea be “not obvious to a person skilled in the art”.

Analysis: This evidence supports the argument by showing that AI output already meets the external social and legal standards we use to define “creativity” in humans. By pointing to established institutions like MoMA and the patent office, Boden proves that the appearance of creativity is already a reality.

Writing Assignment, Week 4 (Part II)

This assignment refers back to our summary and discussion questions after watching the debate between Prof. Searle and Prof. Boden.

Develop a thesis statement, and collect at least two pieces of evidence (different than the first part of this homework), and write approximately 200-300 words about it, incorporating your points of evidence.

Due Wed, 2/19 at 11:59 PM