Training Data

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Group activity

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Training data is made up of millions of sentences being fed into generative AI machines so that they can learn what people are talking about in order to generate their own imitation of human speech. Even when the sentences are unclear, the AI machine tries to figure out how to respond, based on the clues provided.

GOAL OF THE GAME

This game is similar to the game "20 Questions," but in reverse. Based on clues (the "training data") that they have been given, one player (the "AI machine") tries to guess what the other players are thinking of in as few clues as possible.

MATERIALS

Something to keep score on.

HOW TO PLAY

 • One player is chosen as the scorekeeper.
 • For each round, one player becomes the AI machine.
 • The other players will agree on a person, place, or thing that they are all familiar with, such as a movie that they have all watched.
 • The players then tell the AI machine what type of item it is in a general way, such as "a movie," "a book," or "a fairy tale."
 • The players take turns describing the item to the AI machine. The descriptions need to be accurate but not so specific that they give away what the actual movie is.

EXAMPLE

If the players decide on the movie *The Hunger Games*, a good description might be "It's about two people trying to survive," while a too-easy description might be "It's about Katniss and Peeta trying to survive."

 • The AI machine can guess at any time, but only has 7 guesses. If the AI machine gets the correct answer, the scorekeeper writes down the number of descriptions it took to get the right answer.
 • The game continues with a new AI machine until everyone has had the chance to be the AI machine.
 • When the game is over, players discuss the concluding questions.

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

 • Why were some descriptions harder and others better at helping the AI player to guess the item?
 • Pretend you want to ask a generative AI machine like ChatGPT to give you suggestions for watching a movie: how specific would you have to be in your descriptions to get only a few suggestions that match your interests?
 • Think about generative AI more generally: How much more information do you think a generative AI machine needs to accurately respond to people's questions?