I’m teaching a class on Artificial Intelligence (AI) right now, and negative preconceptions about AI from science fiction and mass media interfere with students’ ability to properly appraise AI’s potential benefits. What they need is a more balanced approach.

In addition to explaining the benefits AI has already provided, an analogy would help. AI is a powerful tool, but only a tool, and comparing it with a hammer or other tool might help. Horrible things can be done with a hammer, but all sorts of good things, like building houses, can also be done with one. So too, AI can do all sorts of horrible things, but this shouldn’t be an obstacle to using it to do good things.

A picture containing rock, outdoor, grass, ground

Description automatically generated

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