

ESSAY 2: Human/Machine Interaction

Writing Situation: The readings from Chapter 11 revolve around the interaction between humans and machines and the relationships they do have, can have, ought to have. Some essays deal with current technology; others hypothesize about the future in terms of how humans position themselves against machines build in their likeness. Your essay should reflect your understanding of the issues that these textbook readings raise.

Assignment Options:

1. Write an argumentative essay that prescribes or defines the relationship future humans (perhaps your own generation) must be prepared to negotiate with machines or robots that have some degree of artificial intelligence. The machines can be some kind of an android or cyborg, but A.I. must be a quality of the machine.
2. Draw on at least four of the articles in this chapter to develop an argument on what human rights should be accorded to robots and other forms of artificial intelligence that possess humanlike thought and emotions
3. Write a thesis driven essay in which you analyze the issues involved with the interactions between humans and machines. Focus on the philosophical issues that are at stake.
4. Critique the portrayal of relationships between humans and machines in *Blade Runner*. You may want to rent a copy of the film even after the screening in class. Use the class readings as a way of making sense out of the fictive relationships portrayed on the screen.
 - Your essay must incorporate at least 3 sources from the assigned readings and viewing. Outside research should be used to draw upon more current ideas/opinions/information than the textbook provides.
 - You must use the MLA documentation system (in-text parenthetical citations and a works cited page).

I will base your grade on the following criteria:

1. A close reading of the assigned readings.
2. Organized thoughts.
3. Relevant research that is current and adds to the complexity of ideas presented.
4. Standards of good essay composition, such as an explicitly asserted, arguable thesis statement, clear and focused paragraph development that explores and supports your thesis, Standard American Written English (SAWE).

Use a title that has 2 parts. The main title should be inventive but reflect the nature of your paper. Separate this title from the subtitle with a colon.

Additional requirements:

1. **Page length:** 4-5 pages; anything less than 4 full pages will not earn anything higher than a D grade.
2. **Audience:** Educated folks; readers who can affect public policy decisions; scientists
3. **Writing Modes:** expository, analytical, and persuasive or argumentative.
4. **Titles:** Cite the outside works correctly with quotation marks for minor works, such as essays and articles and with underscoring or italics for major works.
5. **Documentation:** Add a Works Cited page listing the texts from which you are citing.
6. A thesis statement in the introductory paragraph.
7. Clear logical essay structure.
8. Focused paragraphs guided by topic sentences.

PEER CRITIQUE DRAFT DUE: _____

FINAL DRAFT DUE: _____