
Artificial Intelligence

Videos:

“If artificial intelligence takes your job, AI should pay you, argues actor”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9WELUc9Ek8> (8:30 minutes)

“Will photographers (and everyone else) be replaced by A.I.?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02Wfni1RAjU> (10:49 minutes)

Guide:

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

Analysis Questions:

1. What are the opposing ideas in these two videos?
2. In his Washington Post piece, Joseph Gordon-Levitt wrote: “What’s behind the curtain of AI? The cost of human labor it took to produce the training data.” What did he mean by this?
3. In the Reason video, Flo Crivello said: “I think humans have such capabilities that they should be reserved for high value things that only humans can do.” What are some examples of things only humans can do?
4. Joseph Gordon-Levitt said that when it comes to AI, “maybe the film and television industry is sort of a canary in the coal mine.” What did he mean by this?
5. The Reason video showed that while the number of people employed as executive secretaries, administrative assistants, and travel agents fell from 2000 to 2021 in the U.S., total employment actually grew. How can this be?
6. Joseph Gordon-Levitt argued that because AI generates material based on content created by humans, those humans deserve compensation. What do you think of this argument? How is the AI process different from human artists, who also learn from pre-existing art?
7. In the Reason video, Natalie Dowzicky used the term “creative destruction.” What is creative destruction?
8. Joseph Gordon-Levitt said that unions cannot solve this issue, and that the government must get involved. Do you think the government should get involved? Should AI be regulated, or even banned in some areas? Why/Why not?

9. In the Reason video, Alex Banks said: “[AI] is leveling the playing field for creative output, where those who weren’t creative and couldn’t tell stories now can.” Is it a good thing that uncreative people can tell stories? Is AI a proper substitute for human creativity? Why/Why not?
10. Joseph Gordon-Levitt said that an AI movie could be “indistinguishable” from a human-created movie. Do you agree? Could a movie created by AI have the same emotional impact as one created by a human? Why/Why not?
11. Flo Crivella compared the invention of AI to the invention of the wheel. What did he mean by this?
12. Should one of the arguments we heard carry more weight than the other? If so, which one? Why?
13. How do you define “art”? By your definition, can AI create art?
14. Have you consumed any AI-created content? If so, what was your opinion of it?
15. Did these two videos share any common ground? Were there any points on which they agreed? If so, what were they?
16. Both videos framed AI technology as impressive and highly capable. If you’ve had any past experiences with AI, were you impressed by the technology? Did you find it to be highly capable?
17. Did you have an opinion on this topic before watching these videos? If so, what was it? Has your opinion changed? If so, how? What did you learn from these videos that affects your views on this topic?
18. What else would you like to learn about this topic?