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ENGL 350W

13 March 2026

Midterm Reflection Essay

Science and technology are fields I have been interested in for quite a long time. These two very important concepts define our current modern-day life. Life as we know it is currently impossible without the development of human technology and the discoveries of science that make it all work. This took thousands of years to get rolling, as made evident by the technology timeline and the reconsidering technology slideshow given in Week 2's work. I always found it very interesting to think about how technology only really started accelerating recently in comparison to all of human history. Humans have been around for hundreds of thousands of years, yet most of the technological developments have occurred during the past 2000 years. Even more recently than that, there has been an exponential increase in technological growth. For example, computers, televisions, and cars haven't been around for a fraction of the time our species has, yet we have developed these technologies from their original basic forms to what they are now.

Personally, this has me really excited, but also feeling cautious at the same time. Having more technological growth is an overall good thing, but I believe that when it comes to AI technology specifically, we really need to slow down with the pace at which it is currently

growing. AI technology has the capability of being extremely dangerous if we are not careful. Currently, the goal with AI is to develop AGI. This AGI would have an intelligence equal to or greater than that of humans. The problems arise when we create an intelligence that is smarter than us; who is to say that this intelligence wouldn't eventually turn on us? If AI has this capability and we don't have a way to monitor or limit what it will do, this could lead to a situation where we don't know how to stop this AI if it ever decides to be malicious. There's also the issue of our current economic system having to adjust to AI technology. Currently, AI is replacing many jobs, and the creation of new jobs has not kept pace. This leads to people becoming unemployed, and since a much cheaper AI replaced their specific skillset, the chances of finding a new job are quite low, since there aren't any economic safeguards to protect them.

Now enough with my ramblings about technology, I have completed two of the required 6 course activities so far in this course. I have been incredibly busy as a game development student this semester, as I am graduating soon, so having the extra deadline cushion with the portfolio has been helpful this semester in getting all my work completed for other classes. I am now in a much better position to focus on this class, and I plan to utilize my spring break well in order to catch up with the course. Ultimately, my goal is to get ahead of where we need to be in the class in terms of assignments and catching up on the required readings that I have not gotten to yet, such as the book *Boundless*. I also plan to participate in the next two peer reviews that are happening soon. I look forward to having a completed and fleshed-out portfolio by the end of the semester and finishing this English class strongly.