**CONCLUSION**

**Project Title: Analyse the reasons behind common negative attitudes towards Artificial Intelligence.**

Through the extensiveness of both my primary and secondary research, I think it is safe to say that I have fulfilled the task that the project title has laid out for me. However, now that I have gathered and analysed all of this information, there is no real conclusion that I can come to without altering the project title so that it actually asks a question. I now know of the reasons behind negative attitudes towards AI – but what are the most prominent ones?

I think a major factor contributing to these negative attitudes is the fact that the general public is uneducated on what Artificial Intelligence actually is, and what it can do. In my questionnaire, when asked whether they were knowledgeable on the subject, 71% of people said that they were not. I have had many conversations in the past where I have mentioned AI and people have had no idea what I was talking about, and especially now that the technology is so prominent in everyday life, this is a cause for concern. When asked whether the leading technological companies should be more open about what they were doing with AI, a strong 88% agreed that they definitely should. However, according to my secondary research, companies such as Google, Apple and Amazon are quite public with how they use AI, and the details are out there if you actually look for them. This tells me that companies not being forward with how they use the technology aren’t the problem – the problem is that the general public will not go out of their way to actually learn about and form their own opinions on AI, instead choosing to adopt the opinions of those around them. A strong theme in my secondary research is that those with negative opinions have not looked hard at the scientific evidence regarding AI, and I am a strong believer that implementing the technology into mandatory education would greatly improve the understanding and acceptance of the technology as a whole.

Another major theme that I have seen is that attitudes to AI depend on who you are, and what you do. My secondary research talks about AI increasing inequality between the 1% and the other 99%, by creating high-skill, high paying jobs that the undereducated will have no hope of getting without further education, while replacing the low-skill service jobs with automated robots. From this revelation, it is understandable that those highly educated, well-off people will have a very positive outlook on AI – after all, it does present exciting new opportunities for the future. However, those whose jobs are at risk of being replaced by AI are likely to have very negative opinions, as the technology threatens their ability to get and keep a job, and increase inequality. My primary research data somewhat contradicts this, however, as most people believed that AI would not affect their jobs, and agreed that AI did not currently threaten them. This may have been because most of the people I asked fit into the group that are most likely to benefit from AI, or believed that it would be a problem after their time. Again, I believe that if people were more educated on AI some of their opinions would change, but this also supports the fact that opinions on AI largely depend on your personal perspective.

The last recurring theme in both my primary and secondary research is that people are afraid of what would happen if we lost control of the technology, and of any unforeseen negative side effects it could cause. In my questionnaire, when asked what the main fear regarding AI was, the most common answer was Potential unforeseen side effects and dangers, and when asked whether losing control of the technology was likely, 50% said yes. My secondary research supports this, specifically the self-driving cars made by Nvidia, which works in a way that even its creators don’t fully understand. My primary research gives a distinct impression that people do fear what would happen if we lost control of AI, and while some of my secondary research tells us that we may already have lost control, it also tells us that the technology was designed to help us, not destroy us. It is a reality that AI researchers don’t know what the future of technology will look like – machines helping us or replacing us. The fear of this unknown future is definitely a large contributor as to why the public may reject AI, and may also be a reason why the technology is not in mandatory education, as there are questions that cannot be answered, and knowing this may be worse than not knowing anything at all.

So, the main negative attitudes towards AI seem to come from the lack of public knowledge on the subject, the technology’s potential to dramatically increase inequality, and the general fear of the unknown. When I started this project, I predicted that the lack of education and fear of the unknown would be large factors contributing to the rejection of AI. However, I had not considered the effect on inequality or the fact that opinions depend on who you are, and what you do. These three main fears are all very justified, and are backed up profusely by my primary and secondary research, with a few exceptions. These exceptions could be due to the small sample size of my questionnaire data, and the fact that if I had asked a more diverse group of people, or people who knew more on the subject, the patterns I would have seen would align more with my secondary research.