Group work summary:

Our articles shared many of the same arguments. They focused on the growing energy strain AI centers are having on power grids, and how they are causing an uptick in emissions. Companies refuse to change their methods, leading to further environmental damage. For example, Bill Gates dismissed the issue as he did not believe the AIs would be so widely implemented that society would be negatively affected. Because of the large amount of GPU usage, these facilities heat up quite a lot and use up a lot of energy. Due to this immense energy consumption, data centers will eventually require energy that our country can’t sufficiently supply. With larger consumption comes much heavier emissions. Even now, e-waste has surpassed 120 metric tons. Companies are stating that they will switch to clean energy, though these are most likely empty promises. Next, I will explain the main problems concerning AI and data centers. In making electronics, a 2kg computer requires 800 kg of raw materials. The microchips used in the hardware also require rare earth materials, leading to massive environment damage. The waste caused by these processes also results in numerous hazardous substances such as mercury and lead. Also, the water usage involved can be much better spent on other projects, such as providing sanitized water to the quarter of humanity living without it. Soon it’s estimated that these machines will require water of up to 6 times Denmark’s population which is 6 million people. Lastly, these centers are burning fossil fuels at a staggering rate and show no signs of stopping. These companies share the same ethical ramifications. Deontologically, companies are using the environment and other natural resources as a means to improve artificially generated content. Teleologically, the environment would be destroyed faster, leading to more climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

In *Atlas of AI*, Kate Crawford explains how AI is very dependent on human consumption and the materials that we provide for it to function. She makes the argument that AI is dependent on our labor, resources and environmental damage. Since we are the ones causing these issues in the first place, she believes that the thought of AI being automated and immaterial is false. Throughout the article, she focuses on the mining of rare materials needed for AI hardware. She argues that since it requires materials from the earth through labor and environmental harm, it is technically a product of nature. She also mentions that AI has caused political and economic issues. Due to this, tech companies require increased surveillance, exploitation of workers and extreme environmental damage. Overall, the deontological issues involved are that tech companies are using workers labor and the environment as a means to advance AI capabilities. The teleological aspect is that common peoples lives are getting harder and the environment is being destroyed at a faster rate.