Summary of group work:

The first article discusses the impact of AI on white-collar jobs in the future. It’s argued that AI is likely going to degrade rather than eliminate work. Throughout history, employers have used technology to break skilled jobs into lower-paid, unskilled roles. This started with machines in the 19th century and was followed by automation in the mid-20th century. This trend continued with computers in the 1950s, which turned documentation and administrative tasks into repetitive, low-skill tasks that paid less. The article suggests that AI could similarly transform roles like writing. What will most likely happen is that writers will shift into "rewriters" who refine AI-generated drafts, rather than write the stories themselves. As with past technologies, AI may lead to more jobs but with lower pay and reduced freedom, worsening work conditions. The article concludes that the real issue is not the AI itself but the lack of worker power in shaping how it is used. The second article discusses an important but often overlooked aspect of AI development, which is data labeling. This work involves human workers manually tagging and annotating data, which AI models use to learn patterns. Data labeling is repetitive and, depending on the content, can be distressing. For example, content moderation tasks expose workers to violent, graphic, or otherwise disturbing material. Laborers from Africa, who work for OpenAI report making less than 2$ per hour, making living conditions difficult. Also, there’s no job security as workers regularly is terminated without notice. The shared deontological aspect is that employers will start using AI to make jobs low effort as a means to exploit workers, by paying them less and getting away with it. In turn, the teleological perspective is that the workers are paid less and suffer repetitive, mind-numbing jobs. Work conditions will suffer greatly as there’s no need for workers to use critical thinking. Job security will most likely falter, resulting in tension and fear in the workplace.

Summary of the reading:

In the environmental paper, I summarized chapter 2 accidentally, so in this paper I’m going to summarize chapter 1.

In the first chapter of Atlas of AI, Crawford looks at the history and politics that are intrinsically a part of AI. She believes that it mirrors existing power structures, rather than being a tool for our use. AI development is based on specific political and economic goals. These developments are traced back to the Cold War via military funding. The chapter focuses on how AI systems make decisions and classify information, highlighting how societal biases and inequalities are often mentioned. It is also frowned upon how companies value efficiency and optimization, leading to dehumanizing outcomes. Overall, Crawford wants us to consider whose interest AI really serves.