

Project Phase 1: Topic Selection and Interview Protocol Worksheet

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1. Chosen Emerging Technology:

“Robotics and Workforce Transformation”

2. Brief Summary of Chosen Technology:

Write a concise paragraph summarizing your chosen technology’s relevance, potential impact on both technical communication and business, and any initial thoughts on communication challenges you anticipate. (Note: To support your discussion, add 2 references to previous research done in this domain.)

The integration of robotics and automation is poised to revolutionize industries, reshaping the workforce by automating routine and manual tasks while demanding new skills for the human workforce. This transformation has broad implications for technical communication and business, as it requires companies to rethink job roles, upskill employees, and redesign workflows to accommodate human-robot collaboration. Communication challenges are likely to arise, particularly in conveying the complexities of automation systems and their impact on existing roles. Businesses will need to develop clear strategies to train and support employees transitioning into new roles. Moreover, effective communication strategies are critical to managing workforce expectations and ensuring a smooth transition.

Research suggests that automation could displace up to 20% of the global workforce by 2030, highlighting the need for industries to adapt quickly (Manyika et al., 2017). Additionally, successful workforce transformation will depend on creating robust educational and training programs tailored to the skills required in an automated future (World Economic Forum, 2020).

References:

- Manyika, J., et al. (2017). A Future That Works: Automation, Employment, and Productivity. McKinsey Global Institute.
 - World Economic Forum. (2020). The Future of Jobs Report 2020.
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3. Questionnaire:

1. How is robotics currently being utilized in your industry, and what specific applications have proven most beneficial?
2. How do you envision robotics and automation transforming traditional job roles within your industry over the next decade?
3. What strategies should businesses consider to balance the effects of job creation and displacement caused by robotics?
4. What are the key challenges in integrating robots into existing workflows, and how can these challenges be addressed?

5. How can organizations balance the need for upskilling employees with the urgency of implementing automation technologies?
 6. What role do you think educational institutions should play in preparing the future workforce for a world increasingly dominated by automation?
 7. What skills and competencies will be most in demand as automation becomes more prevalent, and how can employees prepare for these changes?
 8. What strategies have proven effective for managing employee transitions into new roles as automation technologies are adopted?
 9. How can businesses effectively communicate the complexities and benefits of automation to their workforce?
 10. What are some successful examples of companies managing workforce transformation through automation, and what lessons can be learned?
 11. What role should government policies and regulations play in managing the impact of automation on the workforce?
 12. How can organizations ensure that automation technologies are implemented ethically and equitably?
 13. What advice would you give to leaders navigating the integration of robotics and automation while maintaining a skilled and motivated workforce?
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