Synopsis – Machines

The modern world is filed with technology. Everyday objects like toothbrushes and watches to highly advanced space rockets and computers have become normalized. Children learn to use iPads before they can walk and young adults do not know what a life without technology looks like. For my paper I want to focus on machines and the development in the evolution of technology. Technology has become a big part of the everyday life and as humans we put a lot of trust into the devices we use. But are machines really shaping a better future for humans, are they to be trusted blindly, who is to blame when a machine makes a mistake, and what will happen to the people who loss their job because machines can perform better?

The first problem I would like to address in my paper is how machines have developed over the years. I believe it is very important to know the history of machines and how far humanity has come in the development of technology. For this part of the paper I want to focus on historical texts and articles that can help develop a clear understanding of the history of machines. I find this part of the paper very important because it creates the foundation for the rest of the paper and the other questions the paper will be focusing on. By having a clear understanding of machines and how they have evolved throughout history we gain a larger perspective on how much has happened in technology and why humanity suddenly needs to take ethical issues into account.

The second problem the paper will address is: Who is to blame when a machine fails at its job? I find this question very interesting and important to enlighten because machines has become such an immense part of our lives that we blindly trust these devices. For this part I will focus on times where machines have “failed” and it has cost human lives. For this part of the paper I have not settled on specific events yet, but my options at this point rest between; the resent accident of the self-driven Uber-car where a man died, machines that fail under human operations or the computer HAL 9000 from the movie; 2001: A Space Odyssey. These are all examples of machines that have failed humans, but who is to blame? Is it the machine, is it the creators of the machines or is it the programmers? For this part of the analysis I will refer to the books “The blame Machine” by R.B. Whittingham and “Software studies/ a lexicon” by Matthew Fuller. Furthermore I will get information from articles, which also discuss the issue of machines that fails to do their jobs. I believe it is important to have different perspectives on a case, and that is why I will focus on multiple texts.

The last problem I want to address is what effect machines have in the working industry? I find this discussion important because machines as mentioned before are becoming a larger part of our lives. Machines are also becoming more effective and sometimes better at jobs than humans are. Therefore more and more people are becoming unemployed because machines are employing their jobs. This is especially a problem for women and black people who currently hold the major part of the jobs which robots can do more efficient. Furthermore I want to discuss if this can be prevented and if the evolution in technology is helping humanity or if it is doing more harm than good. For this part I will refer to different articles that touches the subject and different viewpoints will be discussed.

My next step for writing my paper is to collect as much data on the subject “machines” as possible. This is so I can create a clear idea of how I want to approach and write my paper. Furthermore I want to find out what case is best to analyse and discuss and which one will make the most sense to bring into my paper.