

Michael Crichton Speech Reflection

Michael Crichton's talk really made me think about how often we hear predictions that turn out to be wrong. He gave examples like Chernobyl and Y2K, where the real impact was much smaller than what people were led to believe. What stood out to me was how fear, especially when based on bad information, can cause real harm. In Chernobyl, for example, many people weren't hurt by radiation, but by the fear and stress caused by false reports. This connects with the idea from the speech that making good predictions isn't just about science or technology, but also about understanding people and the way they react. It reminded me how important it is to question what we're told and to look deeper before accepting something as true.

Crichton also talks about how the world is full of complex systems, like nature, people, and even the economy. He explains that these systems can't always be predicted with simple thinking. In the Yellowstone story, for example, people thought they were helping by removing wolves, but it ended up making things worse. Then they moved onto different animals while attempting to say the elk population was diminishing. Each action they did caused more harm than good. This shows why it's so important to build better models, ask the right questions, and be willing to change our minds when we're wrong. Good predictions come from being curious, careful, and honest – not just from guessing or following the crowd.

Listening to Crichton made me realize how easy it is to be influenced by headlines, strong emotions, or people in authority. It immediately made me think how easily misinformation can be spread with these tactics in social media. I now want to be more careful with the prediction-based information I take in, especially when making decisions or forming opinions about big issues like the environment or technology. In the future, I want to ask more questions, look at data for myself, and remember that even experts can be wrong. Staying thoughtful and open-minded seems like one of the best ways to handle an uncertain world.