**Discussion Board 04: The Age of A.I.**

**READ ALL 3 PARTS OF THIS INSTRUCTION SHEET**

**PART I:** Prior to completing this assignment you should watch the PBS: Front Line documentary, *The Age of AI. PBS and Front Line* are publicly funded news sites that your tax dollars help fund. PBS news has some of the highest ratings for credibility in media.

**YouTube video:**[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dZ\_lvDgevk*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dZ_lvDgevk)

A full **Transcript** of the document is posted at the end of this document.

The documentary is 2hrs long—so, I have broken down the minutes and 5 Part structure of the video. In addition, a full transcript is at the bottom of the page.

I would recommend focusing on only parts **I through IV**; however, the entire documentary is worth your time.

**Introduction**

**Subjects:** Alpha Go; Deep Learning

Minutes [0 to 6:48}

**Part I: China has a Plan**

**Subjects:** China’s Tech Race with the US. Surveillance State and Authoritarian Capitalism

* Minutes [6:48 to 21:40]

**Part II: The Promise**

**Subjects:** AI in the workforce; Alex Rodriguez and autonomous trucking; Deep Learning and cancer detection; Exponential growth of AI technology; Case study—truck driving industry under threat

* Minutes [ 21:42 to 42:00]

**Part III: The Future of Work**

**Subjects:** Jeff Bezos’ optimism about AI;Kai Fu Lee’s concern about the impact of AI and white and blue collar workers; Productivity vs median income; Societal impact of automation replacing jobs and workers. Rise of inequality

* Minutes [ 42:00 to 1:06]

**Part IV: The Surveillance Capitalist**

**Subjects:** Shoshanna Zuboff and Big Data’s use of our private data to predict and profit of predicting human behavior;Google’s embraces advertising, turns its back on the company’s original motto “Do No Evil.” Facebook and their “social contagion” experiment; Cambridge Analytica; Alistair Mactaggart drive to push a privacy law to regulate big media—the Right to Know (and the right to opt out of big tech selling your data).

**Part V: The Surveillance State**

**Subjects:** Dystopia Now: China’s high tech surveillance and oppression of the Uighurs. Social Control; Rise of Huawei on the world stage; Fear of the merging of state and corporate power. AI—a new Age of Enlightenment, or Age of Darkness; AI and the threat to democracy

**Instructions:**

Write a *450-550 word*response and post it to the discussion board link. You may write your essay based on *one* of the following discussion questions, OR you may write own original argument.

* Do not summarize these essays excessively. Reference the facts and details as needed, but use the material as a “spring-board” for your own argument.

**PART II: Suggested Discussion Questions**

**1) Question:** Evaluate Jeff Bezos’ optimism about technology and his claim that there’s nothing *new* about the dual nature of technology. Bezos states that the “last thing we would want to do is stop the progress of new technology.” However, the technology expert, Kai-Fu Lee, argues that there’s something *unique* about the AI Revolution, especially compared to previous industrial revolutions.

Who do you agree with and why? Is artificial intelligence a true Pandora’s Box—a seeming gift that includes unexpected and even tragic dangers? Discuss your ethical concerns about the pervasive spread of such a potentially disruptive technology.

**2) Question:** The impact of AI technology on workers (both blue and white collar) is a serious concern for technology experts. The documentary uses the plight of US truckers as a case study for how AI—in the form of autonomous vehicles—is taking over an industry that used to provide stable, middle-class jobs to hundreds of thousands of Americans.

How do we balance innovation while protecting our citizens’ quality of life? Do you believe that technology itself will solve this dilemma and create new jobs and industries to replace the old ones? What ethical values or principles will help you justify your position?

**3) Question:** Alistair Mactaggart helped draft and implement California’s “Consumer Privacy Act” that went into action on January 2020. The law gives residents of the state a new arsenal of tools to protect their data and personal information online – while placing more responsibility on businesses.

## What is the law?

1. California residents will be able to demand companies to disclose what information is collected on them and request a copy of that information.
2. Companies will be forced to delete consumers’ data upon request and they’ll be prohibited from selling information if the customer instructs them to via a mandatory “do not sell” link on the company’s website.
3. Consumers will also have the right to “receive equal service and price whether or not they exercise their privacy rights” or in other words, companies won’t be able to treat a user differently because they have requested their data.

**You can answer either one of these two prompts (a. or b.) to write your essay for Question 03:**

1. What ethical responsibility does a company have when they collect and sell your data? What responsibility does the consumer have? How far should your right to privacy extend?
2. Discuss whether or not this new law should be expanded to the federal level? Why or why not?

**PART III: IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

Read and study the folder marked **Discussion Board Handouts** to prepare you for writing your essay. You should write this as a standard essay you would write in English Composition I. This means that you will have clear parts that include the following:

1) An introduction with a clear thesis statement.

2) 2-3 Body Paragraphs with clear Topic Sentences that clearly relate to your argument. Be sure to support your claims with *examples* and *evidence.*

3). An effective conclusion.

**Outside Sources**: When you insert an external source, you must be sure to quote the material and give credit to the source. For example: According to the Wall Street Journal the company failed to…

**Quoting:** But I do NOT require strict APA format for this assignment—all I ask is that you *copy* and *paste* the link to the website.

**Using Examples:** Quote the provided articles and text when needed, but don’t quote excessively. In addition, be sure to support your position with examples and outside evidence. This might include data and facts, historical or cultural examples, reference to books, movies, current events, or any other sources that seem pertinent to the discussion of product recall.

**Plagiarism:** Don’t do it! I’ve been teaching for a long time—I know what a college student sounds like, and what a professional writer sounds like. I will submit your essay to Turnitin.com and search myself to discover the original source, or find the source where you lifted the ideas of another writer…

**Paraphrasing** another writer’s argument without attribution is intellectual theft, also known as plagiarism, and you will receive 0 points on your project.

Have you ever gotten an ad on one of your social media accounts that somehow mysteriously relate to something you google searched for a few days back? That is the machine, or artificial intelligent, adapting the world around you to you. Many companies out there collect your personal data and then sell them to other companies that might want it for any reason. A recent law established in California has given more rights to their resident on if they want their data to be collected and deleted upon request and that should be established into the whole country. With that in mind, the customer should have full right to control the data that is collected about them, with their responsibility that they act on what they want to do with it, and the many different companies should follow ethical responsibility and follow up with the customer’s request.

The customer should have total control of what they want to do with the information that is collected about them. If the customer is fine with the company collecting information and selling them, then the company is fine to do so. But the company should always allow the option for the customer to opt out of such option whenever the customer wished to do so. Today, every type information is collected and stored for usage. Either it will be to sell it to another company or use it and try to get the customer to buy products. All the companies in the world is always trying to get more information, because they want to know what you are interested in, so they can analyze it and try to sell you your interested products, which is not a bad thing at all. With all that information being out there, a person should be able to control if they want that information to be deleted or request to see such information if they wished at a minimum; And that is what the new law established in California does, it give the customer the control over their privately collected information. But it is also the consumer’s responsibility to act upon the privilege that the law has given them.

It is also ethical for the companies to follow suit with the customer’s request to do whatever they wished with the data collected or ask if they can collect your data. The responsibility of the company whenever they are collecting your data is that they can sell the data if the customer allows them to, this should be an option to all data in the world. It is also ethical for them to ask if they can collect your data as soon as you load into their page/website. This is already happening to many websites, they call it “cookies” on the internet, where they collect your data on your preferences and use it to build their website around your preference (AllAboutCookies.org); And you are allowed to disable such cookie in the option menu of your browser if you wished. It would be an ethical thing for companies to ask if they can collect your data first before anything else that comes after and that they allow you no choose no as an option.

Customer should always be priority and they should have the option to do whatever they wished to their personal collected data. Whether it be not allowing the companies to collect their data at all or asking the companies to delete such data if they have them. Next time you google search something, remember that some machine is watching you and will use that data for your benefits.