**Emotions vs. Artificial Intelligence**

Some people are of the opinion that decisions should be made based solely on facts. However, there are others who say that emotions play an important role in the decision-making process. These opposing viewpoints are the basis of the movie, Robocop.

In the movie, the protagonist, Alex Murphy, is a Detroit police officer. In the first scenes of the movie, the viewers see Alex as a loving father and as a ruthless police officer. Alex’s investigation into a drug ring results in a critical injury that sets the stage for him to become the first Robocop-robot cop. The remains of Alex’s body are essentially his brain which contains his memories, his ability to reason, and his emotions. A company which makes robots to serve as police officers takes Alex’s remains and adds mechanical parts. The question becomes, is Alex now a man in a machine or a machine and a man?

His owner says that he is a machine; however, his family views him as a human living in the body of a machine. The antagonist is Alex’s owner who wants his company to make a profit providing a police force with machines who enforce the law. He believes that efficiency is more important than the ethical dilemma that occurs when Alex is allowed to enforce the law on the Detroit’s streets. A scene which demonstrates the issue of efficiency opposed to ethics is when Alex is pursuing a drug ring. He interrogates a man by pulling him out of the window of his car and throwing him to the pavement. He stands on the man’s hand until the man tells him where the drug warehouse is located. Alex is a machine that is programmed to get the crime solved. As the movie progresses, Alex’s brain begins to change from the programmed robot with no emotions into the man that he was at the beginning of the movie.

Machines, like the futuristic one in the movie, see everything as black and white, true or false. There is no gray area. The ability to choose is not available for a programmed robot. Choice or free will is essential in the decision-making process. Bednarek in his article, “Will AI ever understand emotions?” states that “reading is not the same as understanding” which is a good analogy for the decision-making process. Facts are important but without emotions faulty decisions can be made.

Decisions are made every day. In fact, some ninth graders made the decision to attend Cyber Discovery. Details were given by high school teachers to their students about the various activities, including robotics and cryptology, that would occur during the week. However, decisions were not made based upon just the details; they were also made based on emotions. Words, like fun, friends, and lasting relationships, are the words that make a person want to be a part of an experience like Cyber Discovery.