

Assignment Goals:

- Familiarize yourself with the Big Picture in the Artificial Intelligence world
- Reflect on AI and your own life
- Consider the future developments of AI

Your Task:

This assignment must be completed individually and must be your original work.

Skim through two reports: [report1](#), [report2](#). These are long articles, but you will find many sections interesting. We do not ask you to read word by word; some [advice](#) on how to skim.

Predicting the future is fraught with danger. Report1 represents humanity's best prediction on AI, made in 2021 [1]. You will notice that it did not foresee the emergence and impact of Large Language Models (LLMs) such as GPT4. Report2 came out in 2023 and discussed many interesting things GPT4 can do [2]. (Note: The authors of Report 2 were from Microsoft. Microsoft has a vested interest in OpenAI, which developed GPT4.)

This makes you wonder what we do not foresee *now*. **Write** a short essay (around 500 words, in English) answering the following prompt: "Make a prediction about the next big advancement in AI in two years. Considering how LLMs have impacted society, how do you envision your predicted advancement will be received by humanity?"

Cite at least 3 references. You should include the two articles above and at least an extra one, which can be a book, scholarly paper, news article, or social media post. Use a reference format similar to this assignment. Be aware of the rubric below as you write! Note that references will **not** be counted in your final word count.

Deliverables:

When submitting to **Gradescope**, the essay must be in a plain .txt file called essay.txt and the references in a plain .txt file called references.txt. The file names are case sensitive so please make sure the file names are correct.

Please note that this assignment follows an essay format, which is different from all other assignments in this course, which will be program-based. Be aware that "Number of Words" and "Language and Submission Format" will be autograded, while the remaining aspects will be manually graded after the due date. Expect about a week for the TAs to review all the essays, and an announcement will be made on Piazza upon completion, indicating the start of the 72-hour regrade request window. This is different from [the workflow all remaining assignments will follow](#).

Due Date:

Feb 1, Thursday, 11:00 AM (CST)

Comments:

There should be no identifying information (like name, student ID, etc.) in the essays. We do not prohibit nor encourage the use of LLMs in helping you write. If you do use such systems, please add it as an additional citation (although **citing a LLM will not count towards the required 3 citations**); **Furthermore, in the citation please show your prompts so we see how you elicit useful materials from the language models.**

References

[1] Michael L. Littman, Ifeoma Ajunwa, Guy Berger, Craig Boutilier, Morgan Currie, Finale Doshi-Velez, Gillian Hadfield, Michael C. Horowitz, Charles Isbell, Hiroaki Kitano, Karen Levy, Terah Lyons, Melanie Mitchell, Julie Shah, Steven Sloman, Shannon Vallor, and Toby Walsh. "Gathering Strength, Gathering Storms: The One Hundred Year Study on Artificial Intelligence (AI100) 2021 Study Panel Report." Stanford University, Stanford, CA, September 2021.

[2] Bubeck, S., Chandrasekaran, V., Eldan, R., Gehrke, J., Horvitz, E., Kamar, E., Lee, P., Lee, Y.T., Li, Y., Lundberg, S. and Nori, H., 2023. Sparks of artificial general intelligence: Early experiments with gpt-4. arXiv preprint arXiv:2303.12712.

Rubric:

Criteria	Ratings			Pts
<p>Number of Words</p> <p>The essay should be around 500 words. The references will not be counted.</p>	<p>20 pts</p> <p>Full Marks</p> <p>The essay is around 500 words</p>	<p>10 pts</p> <p>Part of the Points</p> <p>The essay is less than 300 words</p>	<p>0 pts</p> <p>No Marks</p> <p>The essay is less than 100 words</p>	<p>20 pts</p>
<p>Language and submission format</p> <p>The essay is written in English and submitted in a file titled essay.txt and references are submitted in a file titled references.txt</p>	<p>10 pts</p> <p>Full Marks</p>	<p>0 pts</p> <p>No Marks</p>		<p>10 pts</p>

The essay does NOT include any private or sensitive information, including your name, student ID and email.	10 pts Full Marks	0 pts No Marks		10 pts
Reasonable Writing The essay should predict an AI advancement and discuss its potential social impact.	40 pts Full Marks The response demonstrates a well-thought-out prediction of an AI advancement, supported by clear reasoning, and offers an analysis of its potential societal impact.	20 pts Part of the Points The response includes a prediction and/or discussion of societal impact but the logic is not clear and causes misunderstandings.	0 pts No Marks The response does not include a prediction or the logic is nonsensical.	40 pts

<p>Quality of the report</p> <p>About the general quality of the essay. It should be easy to read and contains at least 3 references, including the two required readings.</p>	<p>20 pts</p> <p>Full Marks</p> <p>The essay is easy to read and contains at least 3 references, including the two required readings.</p>	<p>10 pts</p> <p>Part of the Points</p> <p>The essay is not easy to read (for instance, contains no full stops), one or both required readings are missing from the references, or the essay has less than 3 references.</p>	<p>0 pts</p> <p>No Marks</p> <p>The essay cannot be read or contains no references</p>	<p>20 pts</p>
Total				100