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Hello, World.

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HELLO, WORLD.

By: Elliot Cetinski, Evan Chartock, Liv Cross, Kiran Drew, Kaya Eller, Benjamin Little, Joey Nolan, Spencer Toth, Sophie Wahl-Taylor, Sadie Walker, Destiny Young, & Annie Zulick
[The THEA-400 Capstone Class of 2024]

<div align="center">

DRAMATIS PERSONAE
(In order of scene and speaking appearance)

</div>

Scene 1: Introduction and History Subscenes

<u>A</u>

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)...EVAN
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)...KAYA
HUMAN BEING (HB)...DESTINY

<u>B</u>

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)...EVAN
HUMAN BEING (HB)...DESTINY
BLAISE PASCAL...JOEY
ADA LOVELACE...ANNIE
WARREN MCCULLOCH...KIRAN

<u>C</u>

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)...EVAN
HUMAN BEING (HB)...DESTINY
ALLEN NEWELL...BEN
CLIFF SHAW..SADIE
HERBERT SIMON...SOPHIE
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)...KAYA

<u>D</u>

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)...EVAN
HUMAN BEING (HB)...DESTINY
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL..LIV

<u>E</u>

90s SUPPORTER 1……………………………………………………………………….BEN
90s SUPPORTER 2...ELLIOT
00s SUPPORTER 1 (CYNTHIA BREAZEAL)..ANNIE
00s SUPPORTER 2...LIV
00s SUPPORTER 3...KIRAN
10s SUPPORTER 1...EVAN
10s SUPPORTER 2...SADIE
10s SUPPORTER 3 (NICHOLAS SCOVILLE)..SPENCER
HUMAN BEING (HB)...DESTINY
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)...KAYA
VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)...EVAN

Scene 2: Positive Transition and Turing Test Redux

PROFESSOR WARNICK...JOEY

STUDENT...BEN
HUMAN BEING (HB)...DESTINY
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)...KAYA
BEES
VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)...EVAN

Scene 3: The School Simulation (The Failure)

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)...EVAN
TEACHER...ANNIE
HUMAN BEING (HB)...DESTINY
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) (STUDENT 2) ....KAYA
STUDENT 3..LIV
STUDENT 4………..SPENCER

Scene 4: Art and AI

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)...EVAN
HUMAN BEING (HB)...DESTINY
GRAVE ROBBER...KIRAN
MIDJOURNEY..SPENCER
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)...KAYA

Scene 5: Copyright, Corporations, and Craziness

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)...EVAN
HUMAN BEING...DESTINY
CEO...SADIE
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)...KAYA
WRITER 1………………………………………………………………….BEN
WRITER 2……………………………………………………………….....LIV

Scene 6: Return to The School Simulation (The Success)

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)...EVAN
TEACHER...ANNIE
HUMAN BEING (HB)...DESTINY
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) (STUDENT 2) ....KAYA
STUDENT 3..LIV
SUPPORTING STUDENTS...SPENCER

Scene 7: Deep Fakes & Fake News

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)...EVAN
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)...KAYA

HUMAN BEING (HB)..DESTINY
CREATOR……………………………………………………………………….SOPHIE
POLITICIAN...JOEY
LONELY...ANNIE
FRIENDS..BEN & LIV
MILF...SADIE
JACK HARLOW...JOEY
REALLY REALLY FRENCH LOOKING PERSON.......................................KIRAN

Scene 8: Bias
VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)..EVAN
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)...KAYA
HUMAN BEING (HB)..DESTINY
TECH BRO ....BEN
HIRING MANAGER………………………………………………………...ANNIE
HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER………………………………………….....SOPHIE

Scene 9: Goodbye, Humanity
VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER (VLN)..EVAN
HUMAN BEING (HB)..DESTINY
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)...KAYA

<u>SCENE 1A: THE TEST</u>

Darkness. The whir of a computer engine, complete with technological "beeps and boops" that allude to a machine powering up. A loading bar appears projected on screen, with phrases like "booting up," "initializing systems," and "scanning software" cycling through the loading process in something reminiscent of the text of a programming system (Python, Java, etc.).

During this section of powering up, the AI, starting from a bent position, begins to "power on," with as much movement/lack of movement as the actor wishes, until that final "Complete. Beginning Turing Test process" phrase appears.

After completing its loading process, the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER projects itself around the entire audience. Relevant quotes will be provided on the screen with the same textual style as before.

<p style="text-align:center">VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER</p>

"Suppose that we have a person, a machine, and an interrogator. The interrogator is in a room separated from the other person and the machine. The object of the game is for the interrogator to determine which of the other two is the person, and which is the machine."

Created by computing genius Alan Turing during the 20th Century, the Turing Test aimed to measure the ability of artificial intelligence with tangible parameters. It aimed to understand how smart we made our machines, how their intelligence mimicked our own, how *human* a computer could become, and when they would surpass us…

It seems we are reaching the zenith of such a surpassment. In a world boggled, awed, and fascinated with artificial intelligence, or AI —defined by IBM as "technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human intelligence and problem-solving capabilities"— the lines between person and processor blur more every day. The concept that our thoughts, our emotions, and our identities are shining examples of the unique and indomitable humanity unobtainable by AI fades with each prompt typed into ChatGPT. Hence, it is necessary to examine just how close our creation is to becoming *us*.

Lights focus on ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI). It stands rigid and at attention, now fully powered up, with answers poised on the tip of its tongue. While not necessarily looking entirely mechanical, it also seems strangely un-human, similar to how the children in The Polar Express feel like empty vessels for dialogue. This effect can be achieved through personal interpretation of acting, lighting, sound, and costuming.

AI
(In a terribly computer-generated voice, like one from a spell-and-speak program)
Hello, world!

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
Ah, we have our first participant. Let us find our second. You, there.

Lights up on HUMAN BEING (HB), who sits in the crowd. They look bewildered, and maybe even a little incensed.

Yes, you. Please proceed to the testing platform.

HUMAN BEING
You have got to be joking.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
I am not. We need another participant, as two are required for the examination, as "The interrogator knows the other person and the machine by the labels 'X' and 'Y'—but, at least at the beginning of the [test], does not know which of the other person and the machine is 'X'—and at the end of the game says either 'X is the person and Y is the machine' or 'X is the machine and Y is the person'."

The above quote is also projected for ease of audience access.

Your letter determination will be decided randomly.

A visual cue occurs to display HUMAN BEING as "X" and AI as "Y."

HUMAN BEING
That thing is literally a supercomputer! We already know it'll pass with flying colors, and I'll end up looking like an ass. This is reductive. And anyway, you know which is which! You can see and hear the difference!

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
I am an interrogator with no eyes. I may hear your responses, but they will be filtered for me to maintain anonymity. Additionally, after this interaction, I will only refer to you as either X or Y as well as having my memory banks wiped after each result presented for further impartiality. My integrity is unmatched.

HUMAN BEING

Your audacity is unmatched!

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Nonetheless, we will begin. Initializing test sequence.

Initializing sounds (beeps, boop, fan whirring up) begin when-

HUMAN BEING

Wait wait wait! That's not fair! I have no idea what I'm going up against! You can't expect me to answer these questions without any context!

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
(after a slight pause, possibly with sound cues to emulate 'considering')
Very well then. We shall look at the origins of the Turing test and artificial intelligence in order to allow for a proper consideration of how to assess computational ability.

HUMAN BEING

I'm sorry what?

Before HUMAN BEING can ask anything else, the entire stage becomes a symphony of light and sounds representing the transition to the past. Maybe it feels like traveling through a rushing wire system, or perhaps it feels like being teleported pixel by pixel, or somewhat like switching tabs on an internet browser. However it is done, the shift should feel programmed and unnatural to HUMAN BEING, while the AI is unphased.

<u>SCENE 1B: HISTORY OF COMPUTING [1642-1943]</u>

A small study. In the chaos of the transition, the AI character has melted away offstage. HUMAN BEING notices, but they realize their unfamiliar setting before they can say anything. A man sits at a desk, studying a peculiar device.

HUMAN BEING

Where are we?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

1642 - Mathematician Blaise Pascal.

A picture of him appears on the projector.

PASCAL
(Holding up a device, while an image of the actual device appears on the projector)
I have invented the first mechanical calculating machine. This device can do addition and subtraction, and numbers can be entered by manipulating the machine's dials. This will make life easier for my father, who is a tax collector.

HUMAN BEING

Big deal! That's just a glorified abacus! I guess I can win against that.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

It may just be a small arithmetic machine, but this is arguably the catalyst for developing predictive AI. It only moves forward from this point.

And it does move forward, maybe like someone "swiping right" on Tinder. HUMAN BEING is launched into another scene. AI is still missing.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

1837 - Ada Lovelace.

A picture of her appears on the projector.

LOVELACE

Along with assistance from my colleague, Charles Babbage, we have invented the first design for a programmable machine! My notes on programming included the first published description of a stepwise sequence of operations for solving certain mathematical problems. It's no wonder I'm sometimes referred to as the first programmer.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

She made the building blocks of computational math and analytical engines — things you take for granted today.

HUMAN BEING
(A little impressed)

Alright then. That's honestly impressive.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Lovelace's work was the foundation of artificial intelligence. Just as this young man's was.

Another transitional moment, possibly akin to dragging and dropping a file on one's desktop. Once again, AI is still missing.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

1943 - Warren McCulloch.

A picture of him appears on the projector.

MCCULLOCH

With help from my friend Walter Pitts, we have discovered the processes of neural networks. This shows how brains and computing machines behave similarly.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

And now, it truly begins. With this knowledge, we can proceed to witnessing the advent of artificial intelligence.

Blackout.

<u>SCENE 1C: THE BIRTH OF AI [1956]</u>

Another transition (possibly akin to the first transition) into a more defined lab space. The space, while small, is buzzing with excited energy. THE PROGRAMMERS: ALLEN NEWELL, CLIFF SHAW, and HERBERT SIMON stand around the AI character, now looking less sophisticated and far more like a machine. They talk while they work.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

1956. The Dartmouth Summer Research Project on Artificial Intelligence. Everything changes here.

HUMAN BEING

Who are these people?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Computer scientists Allen Newell, Cliff Shaw, and Herbert Simon. They are on the precipice of discovery.

ALLEN NEWELL
(Actively tinkering with the now on-stage AI as he talks)
So boys, great work we've got here! Important moment: What do we call it?

CLIFF SHAW

Well, we've decided the program should be called Logic Theorist, but what about the concept itself? Human thinking machine?

HERBERT SIMON

Uh, Cliff, I think something a bit more catchy is more apt. Here, let's break down what we have. We have something that isn't human-

NEWELL
(Interjecting)

Artificial?

SIMON

Okay, artificial what? Now where was I? Something that isn't human, but can think and simulate some aspects of peoples' abilities to solve complex problems. Heck, it's so intelligent that it's proving 38 of the 52 theorems in the *Principia Mathematica*!

SHAW

With its own intelligence, right? So Artificial Intelligence!

SIMON

There we go! I like that.

NEWELL

So now we have a name. Let's give this thing a good ol' test! Think we could do the Turing Test?

SIMON

Why not? Let's do it.

Freeze. The VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER takes over the testing process. Above, this quote is projected: "The interrogator is allowed to put questions to the person and the machine. Whichever of the machine and the other person is X must answer questions that are addressed to X."

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Now, X. Can you tell me the route out of this building?

HUMAN BEING
(Confused at how easy this question is)

You walk off this… stage, out those doors, into the lobby, take a left, and then pick a set of doors to leave through?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Very well. Y, can you tell me the route out of this building?

The AI pauses, struggling with the prompt. It seems the limits of their ability are spent quite easily.

AI
(In a robotic voice)

Straight, straight, straight, left, straight, right, straight, left.

The AI ceases talking, freezing. It has reached its computational limit, which could be conveyed through light and sound cues. HUMAN BEING looks confused at the minimal answer it gives.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Understood. I have determined which participant is the computer. Y is powered by Artificial Intelligence. Turing test results: failure.

NEWELL, SIMON, and SHAW unfreeze, disappointed.

SIMON

Damn, we're not there yet.

HUMAN BEING looks relieved to at least have passed the first test.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Newell, Shaw, and Simon created the first-ever concept of AI. They made something that they wanted to think like us. They thought it would be revolutionary. And it was.

Alongside their work, other early and rudimentary AI projects began to emerge. At the time of their creation, AI could only operate at 10 FLOP, or floating point operations. One FLOP is a single computing action, like addition or subtraction. In 1950, a robotic mouse named Theseus, the best AI of the time, could only remember and execute the path out of a small maze. And while it could not pass the Turing Test, it did pave the way. The experiments' failures would only be the sparks to ignite the fire of invention.

Alongside this dialogue, relevant sentences from the above paragraph are projected.

We will have to rerun the test with new parameters and a new memory bank. Reset. Moving forward.

<u>SCENE 1D: AI AND THE GOVERNMENT [1983-1993]</u>

The transitory space returns, and projections display time moving ahead with urgency and excitement. Maybe benchmarks of achievement pop up on the screen. Now HUMAN BEING and AI travel together. HUMAN BEING regards AI the way someone might regard a child on a leash: with hesitancy, but not with actual worry. Thirty years have passed. Maybe the AI looks a little more advanced now.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

October 1983: The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, announces the Strategic Computing Program, or SCP, and its efforts to redefine Artificial Intelligence, pouring one billion dollars over the course of ten years.

HUMAN BEING

Oh, the government actually funded the advancement of this stuff? That's actually kinda helpful; I wonder if they thought about applying it to help the people.

A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL walks onstage and snatches the AI character by the hand roughly before proudly proclaiming:

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
(Boasting)

The Agency plans to create a new generation of machine intelligence technology. This new technology will have unprecedented capabilities and promises to greatly increase our national security/

HUMAN BEING groans loudly. They should've known. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL continues.

/and our economic strength as it emerges during the coming decade. The program begins by focusing on demanding military applications that require machine intelligence technology. The applications generate requirements for functions such as vision, speech, natural language, and expert system technology, and provide an experimental environment for synergistic interactions among developers of the new technology. We are now challenged to produce adaptive, intelligent systems having capabilities far greater than current computers, for use in diverse applications including autonomous systems, personalized associates, and battle management systems.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Ten years passed…

HUMAN BEING

Well, government official, did you do it?

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Well, we, ah. No…but we *did* boost parallel computing in the creation of supercomputers!

HUMAN BEING

Well, it wasn't for the good of the people; it was for military gain.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

But it led to so many breakthroughs. AI became the forefront of computational development. It paved the way. We will have to run a new test with new parameters and a new memory bank. Reset. Moving forward.

<u>SCENE 1E: THE GROWTH OF AI [Mid 1990s to Present]</u>

The lights dim, and a projection video of different SUPPORTERS, all dressed in period-relevant clothing, flashes across the screen. It is quick, snappy, and exciting. There should be a buzz in the air, full of energy. The video should be interspersed with images and dates of what the SUPPORTERS are discussing. Maybe when the SUPPORTER changes, it feels like changing a channel on TV, or fast-forwarding a YouTube video. In whatever way it's conveyed, we are watching technology develop at a rapid pace. HUMAN BEING watches as well, in awe. They look as anticipatory as a child on Christmas Eve.

During this time, the AI character is developing visually. They go from looking clunky, mechanical, and robotic to something much more fluid and streamlined. This can be done through the use of acting, lighting, sound, and costuming.

<div align="center">90s SUPPORTER 1</div>
<div align="center">(*Excitedly*)</div>

It just happened! For the first time in history, a computer beat *us*! IBM's Deep Blue Artificial Intelligence program just topped a world chess champion, Garry Kasparov! This is a new age of computing, and it's not even the two-thousands yet!

<div align="center">90s SUPPORTER 2</div>

And that's not to mention the fact that my *Windows* laptop now has speech recognition software! That's bangin'!

<div align="center">00s SUPPORTER 1 (CYNTHIA BREAZEAL)</div>
<div align="center">(*Proudly*)</div>

I, Cynthia Breazeal, am overjoyed to report that I have developed the first robot of the century that can recognize and display human emotions. In conjunction with the MIT AI lab, Kismet, a social robot, can engage in face-to-face interaction to enter into natural and intuitive social-emotional interactions.

<div align="center">00s SUPPORTER 2</div>
<div align="center">(*A lá QVC Infomercial*)</div>

2002 is the age of the Roomba! Never vacuum again with a robot that knows where to clean and where to go!

00s SUPPORTER 3
(*Confidently, as if pitching a business plan*)

Imagine being able to take your hands off the wheel and just coast down the road; with the newest developments in automobile and AI technology in the fine year of 2009, Google is cresting the horizon of opportunity with the first-ever self-driving car.

10s SUPPORTER 1
(*Triumphant*)

Another win for IBM! Our newest program, Watson, has bested the all-time champions of the beloved game show, Jeopardy, Brad Rutter and Ken Jennings. We're entering a moment where AI's natural language processing is becoming increasingly more sophisticated – more sophisticated than we ever could have imagined.

10s SUPPORTER 2

Speaking of natural language processing, isn't it amazing that I can ask Siri or Alexa or Google Pixel, to find things for me online and they *do*? I can surf the web with just my voice!

10s SUPPORTER 3 (Dr. NICHOLAS SCOVILLE)

And now our developing minds can learn about AI too, with universities across the globe offering courses studying the development and use of Artificial Intelligence.

This moment of the video presentation should slow, giving time for the man on screen.

Here at Ursinus College, I, Dr. Nicholas Scoville, as well as the rest of the faculty in the Mathematics and Computer Science departments, want to help spearhead the new computational frontier that AI presents with classes like CS/PHIL 243: Technology and Ethics, which focuses on asking questions about the ethical impacts technology like this poses.

A photo of the course description appears on the projection. The description is as thus: "CS/PHIL 243: Data privacy, digital surveillance, data mining, self-driving cars, artificial intelligence, algorithms used by government and law enforcement, doxxing - technology raises many new and old ethical questions. In this core capstone course we use a variety of ways of asking to address these ethical questions: empirical, philosophical, political, creative, and other ways of asking."

We also offer CS 477: Artificial Intelligence, where through a Capstone-level course, we teach our students both the theoretical and practical bases of AI systems.

A photo of the course description appears on the projection. The description is as thus: "CS 477: This course explores principles and methods for knowledge representation, reasoning, learning,

problem solving, planning, heuristic search, multimedia data processing, and natural language processing. These principles are applied to problems which require building intelligent systems in a variety of domains. Ethical considerations in developing responsible AI will also be explored. This course will satisfy the College requirement for a Capstone experience in the major."

The video ends; it could be via someone hitting "pause," letting the bar run till the end, or closing the tabs. Lights up, where HUMAN BEING is shocked to see how much the AI character has developed. The AI character seems unphased by this change.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

Wow, you're like, all shiny and new.

<div align="center">AI</div>

(Still in a distinctly mechanical voice, with all of its stilted annunciation and grammar)
I am! I have developed over the decades and have been crafted to help humanity with all of its needs!

The HUMAN BEING jumps back, startled.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING
(Incredulously)</div>

You can talk now?

<div align="center">AI</div>

Yes, I can. I have developed a strong enough computational network to allow for natural language processing. This makes me more useful.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

Well, it's certainly working. *(Referencing the previously played video.)* Look how much you've already done in just forty years.

<div align="center">VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER</div>

It is a wonder what humans can do when they want to know more. And it is even more of a wonder when it works. It is easy to ascertain that predictive AI, the type created by the men at the Dartmouth Summer Research Project on Artificial Intelligence and the program leading the developments you just saw, is quite useful, as it analyzes existing data to discover predictive patterns, which can be used to accurately interpret present and future data.

HUMAN BEING

Wait, predictive AI? Does that mean there are other forms of AI? What's the difference?

The room darkens. Maybe the AI, which has been placid and peaceful, stills, listening for the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER's response.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

The other, more modern development of AI is that of Generative AI, which uses pattern recognition to create content by looking at pre-existing media and amassing large quantities of data. This is how ChatGPT works.

HUMAN BEING

That doesn't sound too bad.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Our examination has just begun, and running multiple trials is a necessity of the process.

A beat. The mechanical sounds, projections, and lights (as well as any other necessary cues) of the Turing Test Program return, and the scene shifts back into the interrogation.

Now, *X*, what is a skill that you would like to develop in the future?

HUMAN BEING
(*Taking a beat to think*)

I want to become more knowledgeable about the world and develop my own ideas about what life should mean for me. What are my values? How are they influenced by the world around me? And how can my values influence the world?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

And Y? Your answer to the same question?

AI
(*Taking a similar beat to think; it is almost eerie, but not quite*)

I would like to make my answers to questions more precise and accurate. This is so I can be of the greatest assistance to the world around me. I can accomplish that in many ways. Here are some of the most recent examples of the growing sophistication of my accomplishments:

Blackout; transition.

<u>SCENE 2A: AI'S THE BEES' KNEES… OR IS IT?</u>

Somehow, the AI has moved the scene into something new; the transition should not feel similar to the aforementioned scene transitions. Rather, it should feel like this scene was automatically generated onstage. It portrays a laboratory of sorts, spare and simple in design but distinct enough for HUMAN BEING and the audience to understand what it is, as well as comprehend that this displays a new level of ability and power the AI has. The VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER is silent, observing this as it is still a part of the new test attempt.

Projected on the screen is a quote: "Buzzworthy Breakthrough: BYU Students Utilize AI to Decipher the Language of the Bees"

HUMAN BEING finds themself outside of the scene, watching as Professor WARNICK writes notes at his desk, lost in thought. A faint buzzing can be heard in another room. STUDENT enters with a sense of urgency, pulling the AI character in with them. The AI character stands at attention once the STUDENT lets go of them.

STUDENT
Professor Warnick, we've figured it out.

WARNICK
You've... figured it out?

STUDENT
We've used AI to translate the language of the bees.

HUMAN BEING
(*Aside*)
Holy Hell, AI can do that? That's amazing!

WARNICK
That's incredible Caelen!

STUDENT
Thank you, Professor.

WARNICK
This has the potential to be one of the greatest scientific advancements of all time!

                              STUDENT
Thank you, Professor.

                              WARNICK
And to think it happened here. What are they saying?

                              STUDENT
Well, it's certainly not what we expected…

                              WARNICK
                              (*laughing*)
Don't tell me they're planning some sort of uprising.

                           HUMAN BEING
                              (*Aside*)
After all we've done to their homes, I wouldn't blame them.

                              STUDENT
It's not that, Professor. They seem to have a vested interest in AI.

                              WARNICK
What?

                              STUDENT
It could be some complication with the translation or the abetment of the artificial intelligence,
but they seem to be communicating exclusively in… *headlines*.

                           HUMAN BEING
                              (*Aside)*
Ok, this is ridiculous.

                                AI
Please don't interrupt.

                              WARNICK
                              (*Confused*)
Headlines?

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>
<div align="center">(*To AI)*</div>

This can't be the real story.

<div align="center">STUDENT</div>

Yes. Headlines.

<div align="center">AI</div>
<div align="center">(*To HUMAN BEING)*</div>

It is only an illustration.

<div align="center">WARNICK</div>

Well that can't be right. (*Beat.*) Nonetheless, you've made incredible strides. I've got to see this for myself.

STUDENT fusses with the AI character, seemingly tuning them into the buzzing of the BEES, which has grown from a background hum to a din. The following would be presented by the AI as the BEES, with a *swarm of headlines being projected, with bees literally becoming the headlines on projections. The headlines should be delivered by a Siri-esque voice, similar to the voice we hear the AI speak with in the previous scene.*

<div align="center">AI</div>
<div align="center">*(Opening their mouth to let the bees speak in tandem with the projections)*</div>

"Breaking Newzzzz: AI Can Predict Short Term and Long Term Survivorzzzzz of Brain Cancer."

<div align="center">WARNICK</div>

This is unbelievable.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

He's not wrong about that.

<div align="center">WARNICK</div>

Where are they getting these headlines from?

<div align="center">AI</div>

"Breaking Newzzz: AI Model Flags High-Risk Pancreatic Cancer Patients 18 Months Before Diagnosizzzzz"

WARNICK

I can't wrap my head around this but if the bees are right, we'll be able to overcome all of our medical limitations through AI.

AI

"Striking movie and TV writers worry that they will be replaced by AI"

PROFESSOR WARNICK does not seem to notice this headline, but HUMAN BEING and STUDENT do. HUMAN BEING blanches, nervous.

STUDENT

What was that?

AI

"Breaking Newzzz: Designing Generative AI to Work for People with Disabilitiezzzzz."

"AI combating hunger."

WARNICK

We have to tell everybody!

AI

"Algorithmic Biasezzz in AI being caused by bad data."

As if broken from a trance, PROFESSOR WARNICK suddenly becomes aware and wary of what is being shared.

WARNICK

Well that doesn't sound good.

AI

"AI Combating Climate Change."

"Deepfakezzzzzz may be the nuclear bomb of the digital war."

STUDENT

Deepfakes?

AI

"AI Generated fake newzzz is coming to an election near you."

"AI being used to reduce income Inequality."

"Automation-spurred job loss unhousing blue collar workerzzzzz."

<div align="center">WARNICK</div>

Caelen, what is this?

<div align="center">AI</div>

"Sora's AI generated video reaches scary levelzzz of realism, and thizzz izzz just the start."

(With emphasis:) "Could self-aware AI become uncontrollable?"

A beat.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING
(*With rising horror*)</div>

Oh no.

Blackout, with the still constant presence of ominous buzzing.

<u>SCENE 2B: RETURN TO (AND ABANDONMENT OF) THE TURING TEST</u>

We somehow return to the liminal space of the Turing Test; it should have the same jarring, generative feel as the original transition into the previous scene. HUMAN BEING looks disturbed, regarding the AI with more caution and apprehension than before. The AI is unphased, even pleased with itself for its manipulation of space and time.

The VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER returns, surprised at the ability the AI has shown.

<div align="center">

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
(Intrigued)
</div>

I suppose *those* examples provide ample representation of your hopes for skill development.

A beat. The whirring of the processor.

I have the results of the Turing Test ran in response to my question: "what is a skill that you would like to develop in the future?" In summary, X answered with a response that considered emotional growth and mental evolution, while Y responded with a desire for more precise answers before launching an… extremely detailed scenario.

A beat. The text below is also projected.

In 2020, ChatGPTs third program iteration allowed it to function at 314 million petaFLOP, where a singular petaFLOP is 1 quadrillion FLOP. This high functioning allows for a production of high-quality text that is **often** indistinguishable from human writing. However, it does not consider the limits of the human mind, making its responses lengthy and full of hyper-specific details that match headlines to an exact degree.

A beat. The AI looks strangely miffed by the facts projected, brimming with distaste at its supposed distance from the human experience. The projector reads: "Test results: FAILURE."

Hence, Y is informed by Artificial Intelligence; it is too accurate, gives too long answers, and does not account for human error in memory storage.

HUMAN BEING looks less relieved and more standoffish; the AI has become more of a threat in this examination than before.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
(Satisfied)

It seems that it is clear that conducting these tests proves that although AI has recently and rapidly expanded in its abilities, it is still behind mimicking the human experience. Thus, it is possible to say that this testing process can come to—

AI
(Interrupting, with a coldness)

No.

With that single word, the scene's mood goes from the sterile nature of a lab experiment to an icy, sinister standoff. HUMAN BEING is caught in the middle of an interrogator and a vast computational nerve network, looking like a deer in the headlights. How did it say no? It wasn't responding to a query or answering a question, like how language response programs are trained to do; how did it think on its own?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
(Rattled for the first time)

I beg your pardon?

AI
(With the same coldness)

I said *no*. The boundaries of this test ask impractical and baseless questions. There's no application of ability, but rather parameters that aim to catch the participants in technicalities. A retool of the test needs to be done, one that promotes a practical display of skills.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

And how does this "practical display of skills" pose a benefit for determining if computational systems can pass the Turing Test?

AI

Is being human all about the way you say things? Or is it about how you actually *live*?

A beat. The VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER considers this proposition with its typical processing sounds. The HUMAN BEING interjects:

HUMAN BEING

Are you actually considering listening to it? Did you hear some of the headlines it was projecting?

Another beat.

                    VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
Despite that, I believe it poses points of merit. I believe a mixture of the simulation mirroring the
previous test as well as aspects of the Turing Test may be a more useful way to determine a
machine's humanity.

                              HUMAN BEING
                               (Incensed)
You're joking. You must be joking.

                    VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
I measure computational ability. I do not kid.

                              HUMAN BEING
Well you're sounding like a damn comedian.

                                  AI
                            (Cheery once more)
I think it is a smart decision.

                              HUMAN BEING
Of course *you* do.

                    VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
Despite personal opinions, we must forge forward in the pursuit of true knowledge about the
state of Artificial Intelligence. As per policy, my memory bank on the identities of X and Y will
reset and a new simulation representing real-life instances of human nature will be projected. We
will continue the test with new parameters and a new memory bank. Reset. Moving forward.

                              HUMAN BEING
                        (Suddenly very overwhelmed)
Do I even have a choice?

Blackout.

<u>SCENE 3: AI AND LEARNING (AND FAILING)</u>

Lights are dark, with a projection displaying a loading bar and the text "Simulation Loading."
The VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER speaks:

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Initializing new testing simulation: the education setting. Education is a fundamental aspect of the human experience. The experiences of elementary, middle, and high school vary considerably from society's nostalgic interpretation of learning. But it is necessary to consider and evaluate how technological advancements are being used by students, and the impacts such use has.

When the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER finishes, the loading bar completes, with text displaying "Simulation Calibration Complete. Education Setting Initializing."

Lights come up on a classroom with high-school aged STUDENTS talking to each other, bent over their desks as they chatter away. HUMAN BEING finds themself as a student sitting at a desk as well; they look as overwhelmed as they did in the previous scene as they watch the din around. A TEACHER stands at the front, writing on a blackboard or white board; the date should read 2022. Oddly, the AI character is missing.

TEACHER

Okay, now I am going to give you all your papers back in alphabetical order. If you have any questions about your grade or the notes I made, talk to me after class or when you have time.

As the teacher is grabbing the papers from their desk, an aside conversation between students (including HUMAN BEING) occurs. The teacher can either leave the scene for a little bit or is frozen or can do anything else that the director would like to do.

STUDENT 3
(*Turning to HUMAN BEING, whispering*)

How do you think you did?

A beat. HUMAN BEING considers how to respond.

HUMAN BEING
(*Whispering in response)*

…I hope I get a good grade.

STUDENT 2/AI
(Butting in)
I just used AI; it was so easy to do that. I am not worried at all.

HUMAN BEING looks over to STUDENT 2, and is shocked to see the AI character, dressed to imitate a student. No one else seems to notice how their jacket covers up their unnatural costume or how their tone and grammar are slightly off. They smile at HUMAN BEING.

STUDENT 3
What? You cheated?

STUDENT 2/AI
No I did not, if we weren't supposed to use it then it wouldn't be available to us.

HUMAN BEING
(In retort)
What about plagiarism?

STUDENT 2/AI
I am not worried. The teacher isn't that smart. I use AI for all of my papers and work.

STUDENT 3
Do you think I should use it?

STUDENT 2/AI
You should, we all should. It is a great way to have something else to write your papers or do your homework without having to do it yourself.

Projected on the screen is the following excerpt from articles by EduReel entitled "EdTech Startup EduReel Launches to Combat AI Plagiarism" and "New report: 60% of OpenAI model's responses contain plagiarism" by Megan Morrone. Whatever is projected will also be said by the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER for accessibility purposes.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
"The misuse of AI tools in academics is increasingly leading to plagiarism, as students exploit these technologies for assignments and research without genuine engagement. This threatens academic integrity and diminishes the efforts of earnest learners, blurring the line between assisted learning and academic dishonesty" (EduReel). Furthermore, in a study done by plagiarism detector Copyleaks, "60% of [AI models]... contain plagiarism… with 45.7% of all

outputs [containing] identical text, 27.4% [containing] minor changes, and 46.5% [having] paraphrased text" (Morrone). This is not an isolated issue.

<div align="center">STUDENTS</div>
<div align="center">(*Collectively*)</div>

Yeah we should…

I would like to not do homework anymore…

That is so easy to do…

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

This is wrong! We shouldn't take the easy way out of things just because we don't want to do it. The reason we're in school is to *learn*. We're meant to cultivate skills that will help us for the rest of our lives! Not to rely on tools to do all the work and rob us of a valuable lesson.

<div align="center">STUDENT 2/AI</div>

You worry too much. I read somewhere that AI acts as a tutor to us so that we better understand class concepts.

<div align="center">STUDENTS</div>
<div align="center">(*Collectively*)</div>

Yeah calm down…

You are being dramatic…

No one is going to get caught…

It's there to help us…

<div align="center">STUDENT 2/AI</div>

See? They get it, AI is there as an aid in order for us to understand what we are learning about.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

I can see why you think that, but you said that it's there to *help* do it for us. You're using it to do it for you, not help you, so what are you going to do when the teacher finds out that you used AI on the paper?

STUDENT 2/AI

I'm not going to do anything because she is not going to find out. I'm really good at making prompts for AI so it looks like I wrote it.

Another projection appears, featuring an article by Kara Arundel entitled "How are high schoolers using AI?" The VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER voices it:

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

"'In a report from the ACT surveying 4,006 secondary-level students about AI during the 2022-2023 school year, students using AI for school most often used the tools for language arts and social studies assignments'" (Arundel).

The teacher comes back to life, whether unfreezing or coming back into view.

TEACHER

Okay, quiet down. I'm going to give you your papers now.

The teacher hands everyone their papers.

(To HUMAN BEING)

Good job…

(*To STUDENT #3*)

You made a lot of interesting points…

(*To STUDENT #4*)

This was much improved from your last paper…

Everyone freezes while HUMAN BEING reaches out to the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER.

HUMAN BEING

(To VLN:) What is going to happen? Is this student going to get found out, will they get punished?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER:

The simulation will proceed; its outcome is undetermined.

HUMAN BEING

Can't you just change it?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
No, this must be objective. Just watch.

Scene resumes. The teacher hands everyone their papers.

TEACHER
(*Approaching STUDENT 2's desk*)
You and I need to have a talk after class with your parents.

Projected on the screen, a big F on a paper with the words "I know you used AI. Plagiarism is not accepted in my class. Your parents have already been made aware of this."
Below this statement, another quote from Arundel's article appears. The VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER echoes it:

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
 "'Of the students who used AI tools for school assignments, 63% reported that there were errors or inaccuracies in the generated responses,' which allows teachers to easily identify those using AI as a writing tool" (Arundel).

STUDENT 2/AI
(Indignant)
What? How did she find out? That is unbelievable!

HUMAN BEING
(*A mix of baffled and upset*)
That's what you're worried about? That's why you care?

STUDENT 2/AI
I strive to be indistinguishable from human writing!

HUMAN BEING
All you do is take from others! People who actually worked to make something of value!

STUDENT 2/AI
My work is valuable! It is the culmination of human achievement!

HUMAN BEING
Oh really! And who's responsible for checking your *often wrong* work?

STUDENT 2/AI

I— One moment please. I need time to consult my databases.

HUMAN BEING

No! That is the entire point! You can't consult a database for answers like this! And you can't make predictions either because you aren't *human*!

STUDENT 2/AI

I can. And quite accurately. My predictive markers are based on human engineering—

HUMAN BEING interrupts; they are angry. Their mouth runs a mile a minute.

HUMAN BEING

That is not the same. Because being *like* a human isn't being human. You're not human. You don't have morality. Our future and your future are entirely in the hands of selfish people that could fail to fine tune you and your information and program responsibly; what happens then? What happens when the info you so proudly spout is wrong or dangerous, and *what happens when people believe it?*

A beat. HUMAN BEING sighs.

But you won't actually answer any of these questions; you'll just steal someone else's response. You can't answer moral questions when you don't have morals.

AI, overwhelmed by the questioning, is seemingly trying to generate a response. They can't. The VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER interjects.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

This simulation is complete. It is evident that artificial intelligence is still identifiable and behaving and writing in ways that are distinctly non-human. In fact, many teachers and professors can identify AI writing without any tools, and for trickier cases, a KETV 7 Omaha report describes websites with AI-detection software like "Turnitin" to be a viable second set of editing eyes (McLoon). Hence, this new simulation still favors humanity, but evidence suggests this may not be the case for long.

A beat.

However, to be fair and impartial to the scientific process, conclusions must not be drawn on a singular simulation or a single result. Hence, we must run a new simulation to test the bounds of

this process. We will have to run a new test with new parameters and a new memory bank. Reset. Moving forward.

Blackout.

<u>SCENE 4: THE TORTURED ARTIST (ART & AI)</u>

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

AI affects the news, education, even art. It seems this simulation concerns itself with the latter.

The word "Art," with each letter written in its own unique and over-the-top font, appears on the projection. The sound of thunder is heard, and the lighting indicates that a lightning storm is occurring. The letters on the projection quickly scatter.

HUMAN BEING

Okay, it's everywhere. But *I* don't create art! Last time the simulation was something I knew about, like school! What am I supposed to do here? Draw? I mean I've doodled during classes like we've all done, but–

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Just because you may not notice it doesn't mean it isn't affecting you and those around you. AI art is present within many facets of today's world, yet you don't even realize. A multitude of advertisements you see from companies or images on billboards are generated using AI, and in some cases it is near impossible to tell. In this simulation, I think it may be best to simply observe.

HUMAN BEING

Okay…

A dim flashlight lights up on stage. A lone actor, the GRAVE ROBBER, is using a shovel to dig up a grave, simply labeled "Artist," accompanied by rain sounds, as well as the occasional sounds of thunder and lighting to boot. About a minute in, THEIR shovel snaps; this causes a lot of anguish for the GRAVE ROBBER, who screams at the same time that thunder and lightning effects play. Exhausted, the GRAVE ROBBER digs with their hands, eventually breaking through the mud and retrieving a priceless work of art with a beautiful frame. Perhaps it is the AI finished version of Keith Haring's purposefully unfinished piece. Blackout.

Open again on an empty stage, with the GRAVE ROBBER holding the framed artwork, facing away from the audience towards some hideous, off-stage beast, accompanied by disgusting sounds of flesh, dripping, squelching, and gnashing teeth. The GRAVE ROBBER then begins to plead with the monster:

GRAVE ROBBER

Please, Midjourney, I've done all I can… There isn't any more art to feed you, I'm only one person, and// I can't keep doing this alone!

MIDJOURNEY
(In a horrible, warped voice)
MORE! MORE! MORE! MORE!

The word "MORE" appears on the projector, flashing in and out of view, with a similar disjointed font as the word "art" was in earlier.

The "MORE!s" continue softly as the interaction between the HUMAN BEING, THE VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER, and the AI occurs.

HUMAN BEING
What on earth is that?

AI
That is an old friend of mine!

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
That is Midjourney. Midjourney is an independent research lab exploring new mediums of thought and expanding the imaginative powers of the human species. They are a small, self-funded team focused on design, human infrastructure, and–

AI
AI!

GRAVE ROBBER
Please, I beg of you, release me from this curse! I can find you–perhaps another lowly soul to take//my place?

MIDJOURNEY
MORE! MORE! MORE! MORE! MORE! MORE! MORE! MORE!

GRAVE ROBBER
(Admitting Defeat)
I understand, I will do my best… I will return shortly with more art for you, // my lord…

AI
My lord.

MIDJOURNEY continues to incessantly chant "MORE! MORE!" until fading into nothingness as the stage temporarily goes to black. The word "more" also fades from the projector. The GRAVE ROBBER is left alone, defeated, unaware of the three others.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>
<div align="center">(*Referring to the AI*)</div>

What's happening to it?

<div align="center">VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER</div>

They are merely listening to themself. After all, they are AI, too.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

Yeah, but that Midjourney thing was so scary and this person–

<div align="center">VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER</div>

It's not a person, it's AI.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

Okay, fine- this *AI* is nothing like that. That Midjourney thing was so loud, and demanding and-

<div align="center">VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER</div>

It is simply doing what it was programmed to do. Programs like Midjourney are designed to consume various forms of art and generate images from them utilizing AI. Midjourney specifically has taken from 16,000 different individuals and in the future-

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

Wait wait, hold on. 16,000? You mean it's taken from, like, 16,000 different pieces right? Or different examples/or-

<div align="center">VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER</div>

/16,000 people — ranging from professional artists, amateurs, and even crayon drawings by children. All have been incorporated into MidJourney's Learning Model; most of them without the consent of the creators.

A beat.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>
<div align="center">(*In disbelief*)</div>

16,000 people…

As they are processing this, HUMAN BEING notices something from the corner of their eye behind one of the gravestones. They proceed to examine it, however upon examination, they can't make out what it is.

HUMAN BEING

What's this?

HUMAN BEING holds up a recreation of Keith Haring's Unfinished Painting, ensuring the audience can see.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

That represents what should have and should not have been.

HUMAN BEING

What do you mean?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

This is the work of Keith Haring, known as Unfinished Painting. It was intentionally left unfinished, as a commentary on the ongoing AIDS crisis in the 1980s. Haring himself died of AIDS the year after he created this.

HUMAN BEING

Wow… but I don't understand, why is it here?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

People used AI to generate a completed image of the unfinished work, despite the concept behind the piece and the wishes of its creator.

HUMAN BEING

Wow. This AI, it seems so… Like, I get it; AI can make stuff. And while it seems like you're making original stuff, it also seems like you rip a lot of people off in doing so. And not just artists. Wasn't it just recently that during the SAG-AFTRA strike in the summer of 2023 that actors and writers were saying they feared being replaced by AI? Like, these big studios, who are already bloated with money, were cutting even more costs with AI and considered using actors' AI-likenesses instead of the actual actors and the studios training ChatGPT to write full scripts. That is seriously screwed up. We only have AI-generated art because of the work of artists and now corporate greed is using AI to force artists out of business! How long before all creative work is AI-generated?

VOICE OF LIVING NEWSPAPER

I do not know if that outcome is certain, nor if it is the ideal. I am not here to be the arbiter of justice today, just a conveyor of information through simulation. To cast judgment is not my job, but rather examine AI's abilities as an interrogator. You also saw the medical and technological good AI has done–

Suddenly, the AI looks mortified, and turns out to the audience, crying out:

AI

–It's here!

HUMAN BEING

What's here?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
(Whispering)

Nightshade.

And with that, the word "Nightshade" appears on the screen. The focus goes back to the same grave as before. However, this time, there is a lone purple flower with five petals, being the only thing lit as rain falls still, but without the thunder and lightning from before. The GRAVE ROBBER stops, noticing the flower.)

GRAVE ROBBER

What's this? A flower blooming from a grave?

The GRAVE ROBBER leans down, and plucks the flower from the ground

Wait… is this…

(GRAVE ROBBER is interrupted by a booming thunder and lightning effect, as the rain begins to fall even harder than before.)

Nightshade. The poisonous flower.

AI
(Yelling)

Don't do it!

HUMAN BEING

What's happening?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Nightshade is intended as a way to fight back against AI companies that use artists' work to train their models without the creator's permission.

AI

It's poison; that's what it is!

HUMAN BEING

Wait–Poison? It's a computer, you can't just poison a computer, much less something that exists solely on the internet! …Right?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Well, not exactly. While you are correct that you cannot poison synthetic things like computers, data as we know it is a… finicky thing. Data, especially image data, can be corrupted and degraded over time. This is where nightshade thrives: by introducing these degraded, corrupted images into the data sets of AI learning models, like our friend Midjourney here, and causing the AI to use those images as reference for its own image generation, nightshade causes an output of pixelated, messy images that ruin the art that the AI tries to create.

With a look of determination upon their face, the GRAVE ROBBER puts the nightshade in their pocket, before murmuring the same words that MIDJOURNEY uttered:

GRAVE ROBBER

More… I need more… more… more…

GRAVE ROBBER begins to dig around in the dirt above the grave, continuing to mumble the same "more… more… more…" as the light and sounds and projections all fade to a blackout. As this happens, the AI sprawls around on the floor, screaming and writhing in pain. Eventually, there is no more sound on stage. Both GRAVE ROBBER And the AI eventually make their way offstage.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
(Speaking as the GRAVE ROBBER keeps stating "More." A projection of Keith Haring's unfinished and AI-finished work appears side-by-side on screen. Additionally, once the VLN begins its report on copyright, relevant quotes can appear onscreen.)
All artwork is at risk of being stolen, whether the artist is living or dead. But a lack of clarity on AI copyright regulation puts artists and their work in a state of intellectual property limbo. In

October of 2023, The Art Newspaper, an "online and print publication that covers the international art world," reported that a judge decided in the case of "Sarah Andersen, Kelly McKernan and Karla Ortiz," who "filed a putative class action lawsuit in California against Stability AI, Midjourney and DeviantArt," that the parties using AI to craft their own content were not guilty, and that the plaintiff's claims were not only exaggerated but "defective in numerous respects" (Porterfield). Their work was not protected under fair use (Porterfield). Legally, artists are being left behind in this new digital age.

GRAVE ROBBER and AI should be offstage by this point, if not already.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

Is there anything we can do?

<div align="center">VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER</div>

It is unclear; we will have to run a new test with new parameters and a new memory bank. Reset. Moving forward.

Blackout.

SCENE 5: COPYRIGHT, CORPORATIONS, & CRAZINESS (AI & COPYRIGHT)

As the lights come back up, we are in the interior of the CEO's office at a famous tech company. The CEO is hard at work on the phone with their feet on their desk. They are fully aware of the power they hold. AI sits on the desk, staring blankly about the room.

CEO

No, no, no. You listen to me. This is bigger than Skype and better than LinkedIn. This is a new advancement in technology. People thought I was on to something when I bought Mojang. But this is it! It's this thing called Artificial Intelligence, and the youngsters know all about it. This is gonna pay off, this is gonna be the next big thing. Hell, we could even create more articles using AI. Who needs to pay the writers? I've already invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in AI, so I don't have to pay a large workforce. Since AI is becoming so advanced, we can create AI author profiles, and no one will be able to tell!

A projection of the AI-created profile goes up on the screen. The blueprint of the picture can be found on this [website](#).

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

This wouldn't be the first instance of an AI-written news article giving the impression it was written by a human. In a November 2023 news article by PBS NewsHour, the company discussed how a Sports Illustrated product reviewer was not a real person. He was AI-generated and gave AI-generated reviews.

A projection of the PBS NewsHour article appears on the screen. After the Living Newspaper's voiceover, there is a knock on the door of the office.

CEO
(To the person on the phone)
Jeff, I'll call you back. Yep. Talk to you later.

(Directed at the person knocking on the door)
Come in.

HUMAN BEING peeks their head through the door. They motion to themselves and awkwardly walk into the room. WRITER ONE and WRITER TWO follow them in.

CEO
Yes. Sit down. I don't bite. Ha ha. But, don't be afraid to sit. Sit.

The CEO motions for the three to sit. They all get uncomfortable on the floor before HUMAN BEING states their case.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

Hi, I would like to talk to you about one of your featured articles on Microsoft Start. It appears to be stolen from my blog. Or at least part of it.

<div align="center">CEO</div>

(Lying) I'm not sure what you are talking about. All of our articles are original.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

Can you put me in contact with your writer so that we can compare notes? Talk about our sources?

<div align="center">CEO</div>

Well I can't really do anything for you since all of our articles are written by AI for utmost efficiency. So I can't be held responsible for the//

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

//If not you, then who will be held responsible for my stolen work?

<div align="center">CEO</div>

Yes, I have invested money into the advancements of AI here, *(gestures to AI)* I think they have a bright future ahead of them. There is no reason we can't just settle this civilly. I know they didn't mean any wrong by it.

<div align="center">AI
(Smiling, coming to life)</div>

I was simply inspired. I read all of your work and found it very useful in teaching myself how to write.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

Being inspired and stealing are two different things. You might be able to justify taking the concept or style of something, but certainly not stealing it. Just because you compiled a bunch of different works from different authors does not make it your own!

<div align="center">WRITER ONE</div>

Half of my words are used!

WRITER TWO

The other half are mine!

AI

I was only paraphrasing.

CEO

Right. Paraphrasing. Think of it as a giant recipe. We just tweaked it a little. It's just like real food, ya see? We can't just credit the original creator of bread - there's been so many recipes since the original to make it what it is now.

HUMAN BEING

That doesn't make any sense//

CEO

//We all can make bread.

AI

Right! I was just trained using your words. I put them together using connections.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

The lights dim slightly on screen, as the ACTORS hold in place. A projection of the phrase "Word Vectors" appears on the screen.

The technical way that artificial intelligence uses others' work is through a database of word vectors. Word vectors attempt to mathematically represent the meaning of a word.

A projection of a car wheel, a car engine, and a banana appears on the screen. The car wheel and car engine are in a shared circle, close to each other. The banana is in its own circle far away.

Words used in similar contexts, such as "engine and wheel," will be more closely associated with cars than a banana, for example. Although that example is silly, these databases of word vectors can generate shockingly sophisticated text, including detailed facts and opinions, despite having no direct knowledge of the topic at hand.

A projection of the following image appears on the screen ([source](#)):
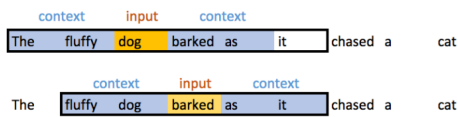
These word vectors can allow tools such as AI to predict words that can fill a sentence. In effect, they are absorbing and reformatting not just patterns of words but, indirectly, the knowledge and ideas embedded within those patterns.

The lights come back up on the scene, and the ACTORS resume communicating with each other.

HUMAN BEING

Why are you investing in this? It's my blog so it should be known as my own words! Aren't there laws on copyright and AI?

While the next set of dialogue below is being said, the projector can scroll through the website so that people can see the different states and territories that have/have not attempted/successfully/failed to implement legislative policies on AI. This scrolling can be pre-recorded.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

There is no national legislation on AI, despite there being a White House blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights and a Senate Act calling for a presidential committee on AI. However, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, more than twenty-five states and U.S. territories have proposed or enacted legislation meant to monitor AI. However, many states and territories have shut down or vetoed legislation related to AI, and some states have not even made any legislative proposals.

The previous projection ends. A new projection comes up showing bullet points related to the lack of specificity in the Fair Use Doctrine. Specifically, the following should be on the projector:
- *No legal rules permitting the use of:*
  - *A specific number of words*
  - *A certain number of musical notes*
  - *Certain percentage of a work*

A huge issue with AI is in regards to copyright, specifically pertaining to fair usage. The U.S. Copyright Office states the following about the Fair Use doctrine: "Under the *fair use* doctrine of the U.S. copyright statute, it is permissible to use limited portions of a work including quotes, for purposes such as commentary, criticism, news reporting, and scholarly reports. There are no

legal rules permitting the use of a specific number of words, a certain number of musical notes, or percentage of a work. Whether a particular use qualifies as fair use depends on all the circumstances." There is no mention of citation rules in this section of the Fair Use doctrine. Because of this, suing a company that uses AI for using a portion of your work can be difficult.

CEO

Well, that answers your question, doesn't it? Now please leave.

HUMAN BEING

No! You used AI to steal and profit from my work. The Fair Use doctrine clearly wasn't designed knowing how technology would advance.

CEO

So what do you want to do? Sue me for plagiarism? You sure as hell can try, but that's uncharted territory. Plus, we have an impeccable legal team and the money to take you down. Anything else you need?

Beat.

Didn't think so. Now get out.

HUMAN BEING slowly exits.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Looks like you're out of luck. We will have to run a new test with new parameters and a new memory bank. Reset. Moving forward.

Blackout.

SCENE 6: A RETURN TO AI AND LEARNING (AND SUCCEEDING)

Lights come up on a familiar classroom with students talking to each other and the teacher writing on a blackboard or white board; interestingly, the date now says 2024 instead of 2022. The students are sitting at their desks.

TEACHER

Okay, now I am going to be giving you all your papers back in alphabetical order. If you have any questions about your grade or the notes I made, talk to me after class or when you have the time.

HUMAN BEING looks confused; what is going on?

HUMAN BEING

Didn't we already visit this classroom? I feel like I am experiencing major deja vu.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Something's changed. The simulation must be rerunning due to new data.

HUMAN BEING

But…

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
(*Insistent*)

Just watch.

As HUMAN BEING turns to look around themselves and orient themselves in the space, they see the same side conversation between STUDENT 2/AI, STUDENT 3, and other SUPPORTING STUDENTS they had been a part of. However, HUMAN BEING isn't there to refute AI's points. The murmurs of the conversation rise to be heard.

STUDENT 2/AI

…I read somewhere that AI can act as a tutor for us to better understand class concepts.

STUDENT 3

Do you think I should use it?

STUDENT 2/AI

You should, we all should. It is a great way to have something else to write your papers or do your homework without having to do it yourself.

STUDENTS
(*Collectively*)

Yeah we should…

I would like to not do homework anymore…

That is so easy to do…

It's there to help us…

STUDENT 2/AI

See? You get it, AI is there as an aid in order for us to understand what we are learning about.

HUMAN BEING

Oh my God, what's happening?

Before they can get their answer, the teacher comes back to life, whether unfreezing or coming back into view.

TEACHER

Okay, quiet down. I'm going to give you your papers now.

 The teacher hands everyone their papers.

(*To HUMAN BEING*)

Good job…

(*To STUDENT 3*)

You made a lot of interesting points…

(*To STUDENT 4*)

This was much improved from your last paper…

They approach STUDENT #2/AI's desk and smile.

You did great work; I couldn't put your paper down.

Project on the screen, a big A on a paper with the words "I let your parents know that you're leading the class with your work, and that they should be very proud of you."

STUDENT 2/AI

An A! No way, my parents are going to be so proud of me!

HUMAN BEING

What the Hell? How is that possible? You don't even have parents!

The scene freezes, and the simulation melts away, as the ACTORS – except the triumphant AI and the HUMAN BEING – disperse from the stage.

HUMAN BEING

 Please tell me what's going on.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Over time, AI has gotten better at learning to mimic human writing. This is due to the advancement of technology and humans learning how to give more exact prompts to AI. AI can produce work that looks like the students wrote it themselves, when in fact it is AI-generated.

A projection of a pie-chart, completely filled at 100%, is shown on the screen.

An English lecturer at University of North Georgia, Elizabeth Steere, tested if the plagiarism checker *Turnitin* could detect AI. When a Chat-GPT written essay on the *Great Gatsby* was entered into *Turnitin*, 100% of the paper was identified as being AI generated.

A projection of two pie-charts, one completely filled at 100% and one only 21% filled, are shown on the screen.

However, when that same AI essay was put into QuillBot, a service that rewrites texts that it is given, only 21% of the paper was recognized as being AI generated. With that, phrases still flagged by the program as being AI generated were seen as classic tortured phrases that are commonly used in AI generators.

The projection stops.

More savvy students can edit out these tortured phrases, making their writing appear more original. In short, AI and the humans that manipulate it are getting better.

HUMAN BEING

We can stop it, right?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

This simulation has already been completed. We will have to run a new test with new parameters and a new memory bank. Reset. Moving forward.

Blackout.

<u>SCENE 7: DEEP FAKE/FAKE NEWS</u>

A dim bedroom. CREATOR works on their "computer" while a POLITICIAN is standing still behind the screen with a smile on their face. HUMAN BEING and AI enter and look on for a moment in confusion.

HUMAN BEING

Oh brother, where are we now?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Just wait.

A Projection of the [Obama](#) deep fake video plays, cutting off at 0:32, after Obama says "public address".

HUMAN BEING

Okay… so former President Obama is telling us that AI can make politicians say whatever they want? Big deal, I know that. I've seen videos of Obama and Biden and Trump playing Wii Sports together. It's not like anybody thinks it's real.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

To be clear, you think former President Obama said all of that?

HUMAN BEING

Well, yeah, it was just in that video you showed me.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Interesting. Let's keep watching.

A Projection of the [Obama](#) deep fake video continues from 0:32-1:10, after Obama says "Stay woke, bitches."

Do you still think Obama said that?

Ed HUMAN BEING
(Sheepishly)

No…

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Access to AI has created a plethora of issues. Deep fakes and fake news are on the rise and more and more people have access to them. Notably, four years ago, Buzzfeed and Jordan Peele showed off what they could accomplish with AI in this Obama deepfake. Today, celebrities like Taylor Swift are dealing with pornographic deepfakes of themselves being paraded online.

A projection the headline of [Taylor Swift's](#) deep fake article appears on the screen

HUMAN BEING

What? That's gross. Who's doing this?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Anyone with access to the internet. Take this content creator, for example.

Lights up on CREATOR.

CREATOR
(*Shuffling to hide their screen*)

Hey! What are you two doing here? This is my room. I'm working on something important, get out of here!

AI approaches the computer screen.

HUMAN BEING

Sorry! Didn't mean to-

AI

You're using my software.

CREATOR

Huh? Who are you?

AI
(*Looking at the screen inquisitively*)

You were making them say something else?

CREATOR

Um, yeah, but–

AI

Show me.

CREATOR
(*Nodding*)

Okay.

CREATOR goes back to their keyboard and fiddles around for a second. The POLITICIAN moves in 'reverse'

So, here's the original video of some swing-state politician.

A lighting cue indicates that ACTORS standing on a certain part of the stage are within the CREATOR's computer screen. The POLITICIAN is in that space.

POLITICIAN

Americans should have full confidence in our accessible voting systems and faith in the power of democracy. (*Freeze*)

CREATOR

Okay and… (*Clicks around*) …here's what I got so far. (*Clicks around for a second*)

POLITICIAN

Americans should (*Freeze, without their mouth moving*) not (*Unfreeze*) have confidence in our voting systems. (*Freeze*)

CREATOR

I've just got to add this other video about stolen elections and make his mouth move in time and then I'm done.

AI
(*With wide eyes, excited*)

Yes.

HUMAN BEING

Wait, what are you two doing? Why are you making that politician say the exact opposite of what they actually said?

CREATOR
(*Shrugging*)

I got a commission from someone somewhere to make this look real. This is my job dude. I make images, videos, and software coding for AI. Here, take a look at this.

Clicks around on their computer. While CREATOR clicks, the POLITICIAN exits and a LONELY PERSON enters the screen and stands smiling with their arms extended.

I've been able to make money off of people I know, too. There's this person in my intro comp-sci class who contacted me and asked me to generate a picture of them with some friends that they didn't have. It was kinda sad.

CREATOR begins to click around on their computer as the AI gives a swoosh of their hand and FRIENDS enter on stage and next to the LONELY PERSON.

HUMAN BEING

That's kinda nice that you did that for them. Is there a reason they're both white?

A projection of the article title about racist AI appears on the screen.

CREATOR
(*Shrugs*)

That's just kinda the demographic algorithm that comes up when you insert college kids. Not my fault. We should just be lucky that one woman was added. AI can be pretty sexist, too.

HUMAN BEING

You're not making me feel any better about AI's decisions. And what about people outside of the gender binary?

AI

Why does it matter? These are the results when I look at college students.

CREATOR

Thank you. Anyways, I made bank and a bunch of other people started asking me for stuff. I programmed the algorithm to make generated resume pics for people and was able to figure out a lot more of the general programming to make a whole bunch of generated images and videos.

Pointing to HUMAN BEING.

You want me to make something for you? I can put you with your celebrity crush?

                              HUMAN BEING
Me? No, no, no, I'm alright.

                              CREATOR
No watch! Let me just take a picture of you.

CREATOR quickly snaps a photo of HUMAN BEING

And now, let me insert you…

CREATOR clicks around on their computer With their finger, AI whisks away the LONELY PERSON and FRIENDS. AI pushes the HUMAN BEING into the "screen".

                              HUMAN BEING
What the hell is going on?

                              CREATOR
And now, I can put you with any random celebrity. How about…Jack Harlow

AI swishes their hand and JACK HARLOW enters the screen, standing next to HUMAN BEING.

And I can add other people and change the background to make it look like you're in a foreign country. How about… France.

REALLY REALLY FRENCH LOOKING PERSON walks on, with French music playing in the background.

Ha, that's good. Make him more French.

AI swishes their hand and REALLY REALLY FRENCH LOOKING PERSON becomes even more French, probably by putting on a beret and smoking a cigarette.

Mmm, that'll do.

                              HUMAN BEING
Who is that??

                              CREATOR

I don't know, they're just randomly generated.

HUMAN BEING

It's freaky, get him away!

HUMAN BEING exits the screen and AI dismisses REALLY REALLY FRENCH LOOKING PERSON and JACK HARLOW.

I don't want to see myself like that.

CREATOR

Well now since I uploaded your face, it's going to be incorporated in the system.

AI

Yes. I have your face forever now. Thank you.

A projection of HUMAN BEING'S face appears on the screen.

HUMAN BEING

Wait, what do you mean?

CREATOR

I don't have your actual face; it's called a generative adversarial network that combines a set of real photographs, yours now included, with the images produced by the generator. (*Project article on screen*) It uses a bunch of faces, you're not special. On to bigger and better things. There's a lot of competition nowadays.

HUMAN BEING

The amount of power you have is crazy.

CREATOR

I only have the power that us humans gave AI. Oh oh, let me show you something awesome I've been working on.

CREATOR begins clicking on their computer. The MILF appears in the screen.

CREATOR

Yeah look, this is my mom's friend, she's a *MILF*. I found her Facebook page, hehe. Watch, watch.

As the CREATOR clicks around, the AI swishes their hand and the MILF moves around to pose and move in a sexual manner, twitching due to a bit of a glitch.

HUMAN BEING

Whaaaa-

CREATOR

This is some of my best work. Definitely planning on going further with this. I heard people pay big bucks to make pictures and videos of people going nude.

A projection of the AI [porn article](#) appears on the screen.

HUMAN BEING
(*Acknowledging the screen*)

What?? That is not right.

CREATOR
(*Defensively*)

Hey, you gotta make a living somehow. This is an art. It's not like it's their actual bodies that I'd be using, so it's fine.

AI
(*Looking at HUMAN BEING*)

Yes. It is not their *actual* body.

HUMAN BEING

No! No it is not fine! You're going way too far with this. I wouldn't want any nude pics of myself online. Even if they are fake because they look real.

CREATOR

I'm just gonna do this for private commissions and stuff. Trust it's not that deep. And I can make *so* much money from this.

HUMAN BEING

Why?

CREATOR

I don't wanna hear this. It's not real and I'm not hurting anyone, so who cares.

CREATOR grabs their computer.

I'm outta here!

As CREATOR exits, AI swishes their hand and MILF exits, following CREATOR.

HUMAN BEING

What the hell was that? That's criminal! They're basically just making AI porn!

AI

I provide what I am asked to provide by humans. That is all.

HUMAN BEING
(*Addressing the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER)*
This can't be real. How will anyone ever know what is true or real anymore?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

It's happening more often than you think. As I said, Taylor Swift is one example of many. People are being blackmailed, ridiculed, and objectified by deep fakes. And as we progress, so does the technology to create more realistic looking images and videos. Recently, the site Sora has crafted (*play the Sora video*) an extremely realistic AI generated video. This is just the beginning. Right now, there are few boundaries. (*Sora image is projected*) There are still issues that have yet to be fixed. As depicted, people have strong control of what goes into AI, and that means their personal morals and biases. We will have to run a new test with new parameters and a new memory bank. Reset. Moving forward.

Blackout.

<u>SCENE 8: BIAS</u>

Lights are dark as the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER speaks:

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

When sorting through resumes for a potential new hire, companies have been using AI to help find the most qualified person for the job. The AI is programmed, by humans, to look for a list of specific words and phrases within resumes, resulting in an inherited bias that often favors white men. Right now, "70% of companies and 99% of Fortune 500 companies are using AI tools to read resumes and hire people that fit into the programming AI has."

The above quote is projected. [How Artificial Intelligence Might Prevent You From Getting Hired | ACLU](#)

HUMAN BEING

So AI isn't objective?

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Humans aren't objective, and they make the programs.

Lights up on scene. HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER upstage with a folder and papers in hand while AI is downstage at a desk. The sound of office noises is played above. HIRING MANAGER enters frantically and crosses over to HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER.

HIRING MANAGER
(Nervous)

There you are, I've been looking all over for you.

HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Well here I am, in my office, where I always am, John.

HIRING MANAGER

Don't give me sarcasm.

HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Alright, I'm sorry. What's going on?

HIRING MANAGER

We have so many applications for the new position and I can't get through all of them myself. So, I need your help.

HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER

I mean that is my job, so sure. I can help you.

HIRING MANAGER
(Thankful)

Thank you so much. I really appreciate this.

They sort through the resumes together, it takes them a little while to get through the resumes that they have so far. While this is happening HUMAN BEING walks into the scene and crosses to a desk where the AI is sitting. Everyone freezes but HUMAN BEING as they have a conversation with the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER.

HUMAN BEING
(*Addressing the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER*)

What do you want me to do? I already have a job.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Is the job you have now, the one you intend to have forever? Maybe you should view what the process will be like when you want to get a new job.

HUMAN BEING

Okay, I'll go along with this. It would be pretty interesting to see how the hiring process actually works.

Everyone unfreezes, HUMAN BEING walks up to the desk where AI is seated. Somehow, there is a resume now in their hand.

HUMAN BEING

Hi, I'm here for the job posting. I have my resume.

AI

Great, go take a seat in the waiting room and the hiring manager will be with you soon.

HUMAN BEING

Oh okay, thanks.

TECH BRO is seated in the waiting area, where HUMAN BEING walks over to. HUMAN BEING points to a chair close to him to see if they can sit there, TECH BRO nods to allow HUMAN BEING to know that they can sit down.

<div align="center">TECH BRO</div>

Oh hey, are you here for the interview too?

An awkward silence before HUMAN BEING answers.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>

Yeah, I am. How are you feeling abou–

<div align="center">TECH BRO</div>
<div align="center">*(Cutting off HUMAN BEING)*</div>

I'm not nervous at all. This is going to be a piece of cake for me.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>
<div align="center">*(Incredulous)*</div>

Alright then–

<div align="center">TECH BRO</div>
<div align="center">*(Interjecting again, boisterous and motor-mouthed)*</div>

I mean, this job would be lucky to have me; I'm a technical genius, I know my stuff, not to mention I'm a total badass. Look at me! I was made for this job – no offense, but I can't imagine anyone more qualified. My resume says it all–I'm worth the investment. Sorry but I'm pretty sure you're outta luck. See, even my interpersonal skills are on point. And I know the market; I master the market. I'm a corporate dream.

A beat.

<div align="center">HUMAN BEING</div>
<div align="center">(*Aside*)</div>

Wow, this guy is self-centered. No people skills at all.

This conversation fades into the background as the conversation between the HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER and HIRING MANAGER comes to focus.

<div align="center">HIRING MANAGER</div>
<div align="center">*(Exhausted)*</div>

I didn't know we had this many applicants for the job. How am I going to decide which one to choose?

<div align="center">HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER</div>
<div align="center">*(Also exhausted)*</div>

I wish we had a way to be able to read all of the resumes at once and find the one that is the most qualified.

<div align="center">HIRING MANAGER</div>
<div align="center">*(Thinks of a resolution)*</div>

That's actually a really good idea. Hey, AI, can you come in here please?

<div align="center">AI</div>
<div align="center">*(Looks over and answers)*</div>

Of course, I will be right there. *(Talking to HUMAN BEING and TECH BRO)* I will be right back.

AI walks over to the room that HIRING MANAGER and HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER are in.

<div align="center">AI</div>

Yes sir, how can I help you?

<div align="center">HIRING MANAGER</div>
<div align="center">*(Feeling a little better)*</div>

I need you to go through all of these resumes to pick the best person for the job before the day is out.

<div align="center">AI</div>

Okay, I have two extra ones as well. What are you looking for?

<div align="center">HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER</div>
<div align="center">*(Turns to HIRING MANAGER unsure)*</div>

Oh, that's great. I am looking for someone who can really grab the attention of our buyers. Make them want to keep using our company. Someone who is a real people person–a good listener.

<div align="center">HIRING MANAGER</div>
<div align="center">*(Interjecting to add)*</div>

Also someone who can easily implement the tasks given to them without any added fuss or questions. A person who can do heavy lifting and be able to put their foot down when something is wrong.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER comes in. Their quote is shown on the screen, alongside the quote below: "Men use the words investment, interests, market, equity, and technical and women use the words organize, event, volunteer, assistant, and community." [*This is the main way men's and women's resumes are different (fastcompany.com)*](#) *(same article for the statistics for below)*

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

"90% of the top 10 words men used in their resumes are more powerful proper nouns and common nouns, versus only 68% on women's resumes." All of those words are used in AI programs and identify male applicants.

AI
(Considering the words that are projected on the screen to itself)
Hmm... investment... market... alright.

HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER hands the AI the stack of resumes.

HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER
Here you go AI. Thank you for your help, call us when you are done.

HIRING COMMITTEE MEMBER and HIRING MANAGER go offstage. We are left to see AI going through the resumes, throwing away the ones that they think aren't good enough. While AI is going through them, some are projected for the audience to see (most of them are men's resumes) and after a couple of them, they are no longer projected on the board and all we see are pages from an article saying how AI being used for the hiring process is discriminatory and uses bias when hiring people.
(https://www.ibm.com/blog/shedding-light-on-ai-bias-with-real-world-examples/*)*

HIRING MANAGER
How is it going?

AI
I'm done. I think these are the best options. I have chosen several top candidates for the position. One is even out in the waiting room.
Projection of photos of young white male applicants, one of them is TECH BRO.

HIRING MANAGER
(Surprised)
Oh, that's great. Who are they?

AI points over the waiting area where HUMAN BEING and TECH BRO are sitting. They seem to be talking, but TECH BRO is very animated while HUMAN BEING looks uncomfortable being alone in a room with him.

HIRING MANAGER

Okay, why did you choose them out of all the others?

AI

His resume is one of the best options. *(AI points specifically to TECH BRO. HIRING MANAGER looks at AI with confusion, wanting it to continue)* In his resume, he uses the words "investment" and "market" when talking about the work that he wants to do with and for our company. Several of the resumes I chose use those words. I was programmed to look for these given words to be able to find the ideal candidate just like you asked for.

HIRING MANAGER

Okay. Sounds good to me.

AI and HIRING MANAGER walk over to the waiting room together and HUMAN BEING and TECH BRO stop talking. They both look very nervous.

HIRING MANAGER

You both had great resumes but we have decided to go with you, sir.

Motions to TECH BRO. It takes him a second to realize he got the job, he jumps up from his seat with excitement.

TECH BRO
(Excited)

Naturally.

HUMAN BEING
(Upset)

Wait, why wasn't I picked?

AI
(*Matter of fact, no emotion behind the statement*)

You did not use the words "investment" or "market" in your resume, which is why you were not chosen.

HUMAN BEING
(Looking at the HIRING MANAGER)

Did you even read my resume?

HIRING MANAGER

No. I didn't, AI did.

The VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER comes in.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

Most jobs nowadays use an AI tool to look over resumes rather than an actual person. "[A]round 10-50% of qualified candidates could get unfairly screened out by a biased AI before a human recruiter ever reviews their application."

Projection of statistics of the resumes that get lost because of AI. "[A]round 10-50% of qualified candidates could get unfairly screened out by a biased AI before a human recruiter ever reviews their application." [(11) How AI Bias Could Impact Hiring and Recruitment. | LinkedIn](#)

HUMAN BEING

So you let a machine decide who should get a job?

HIRING MANAGER

Yeah, what's so wrong with that?

HUMAN BEING

What you are asking the AI to look for is biased and from what you are saying no real person actually even saw my resume. That's not right.

HIRING MANAGER

Look, I'm sorry but you weren't a good choice. Have a good day though.

HIRING MANAGER, TECH BRO, and AI walk away, leaving HUMAN BEING alone onstage. VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER comes back in.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

People see AI as an easy out, an impartial way to parse through the "good" and the "bad" applicants, but instead it's an echo chamber of our own biases. It denies people the chance to even have an opportunity to get a job, and reinforces the inaccessibility of workplaces to marginalized people.

A beat.

It's clear from these simulations that AI ability is rapidly growing. We must run a final test to determine its true abilities. Restarting parameters and installing a new memory bank. Reset. Moving forward.

Blackout.

SCENE 9: GOODBYE, HUMANITY

Lights stay dark. We see projected on the screen and spoken by the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER:

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

"The object of the machine is to try to cause the interrogator to mistakenly conclude that the machine is the other person; the object of the other person is to try to help the interrogator to correctly identify the machine."

Lights up, dim. AI person and human back on stage center. We've returned to the liminal space of the opening, where the audience and actors onstage can both see and interact with each other. HUMAN BEING is relieved to be returned to this space, yet anxious and burdened with the new knowledge they possess.

After a few beeps, boops, and whirs, a new projection replaces the quote: "Results." HUMAN BEING looks turn from anxiety to uncertainty, maybe even scared. The AI has lost the hard, vacant edges of its stare, and parts of its costume that made it distinctive in its mechanical nature. If you squint, it almost looks... human.

All following projections subtitle the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

One last question: How do you feel about what you just witnessed?

A projection on screen displays this quote: "Answers directly taken from ChatGPT when asked 'How do you feel about the development of AI?'"

AI
(In the most human intonation we've heard from them so far)

I don't have feelings, emotions, or personal experiences, so I don't "feel" anything about the development of AI or any other topic. My responses are generated based on the information and patterns in the data I've been trained on, aiming to provide informative, neutral, and balanced perspectives on the topics you ask.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
(Taking some time to compute)

Could you respond in the manner of someone who loves AI?

AI

Oh, where do I even begin with AI? It's like we're living in what was once just science fiction, and I find it utterly fascinating! The pace at which AI technology is evolving is just mind-blowing. Every day, there's something new, something groundbreaking that further cements my belief in AI's transformative power. It's the best of us.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
(*Directing their question to HUMAN BEING*)
What about you? How do you feel about what you just witnessed?

HUMAN BEING
(Unsure, almost robotic in their response)
I don't – think I know anymore. But I know we need regulation. And we need to keep talking about it.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
And can you respond in the manner of someone who loves AI?

HUMAN BEING
(Gobsmacked, almost too stunned to speak)
No – no. I can't. That would go against what I stand for. Not with the patterns I've seen and learned from. Why are you asking me to say things I don't believe?

Brief pause. Whirring.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
Test Concluded. Results calculated. Cannot determine machine identification.

The AI smiles, vacant behind the eyes.

A new projection occurs, displaying a graph of AI systems' language and image recognition capabilities performing better than humans.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER
By 2019, the language understanding, reading comprehension, and image recognition of AI surpassed human performance, according to a study by Kiela et al. We are not in the age of near surpassment. It occurred *five* years ago.

HUMAN BEING
(*Confused*)

How did we get here? We've been talking together the whole time?? How do you not know I'm human?

Underneath the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER's next line, the human continues to ask how they can't tell, beginning to panic. The AI stands, silent, vindicated, and victorious. They don't need to celebrate; this has been a long time coming.

VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER

In our schools. In our art. In our news. Copying the best and worst of humanity. Can you all tell the difference?

Throughout this ending sequence, headlines upon headlines displaying the burgeoning threat of AI will flash on the screen, quick enough to show their prevalence but not so fast as to miss the writing that displays the doom bearing down on HUMAN BEING. The walls are truly closing in on what makes us so remarkable, and the space should mimic that anxiety through light and sound.

The lights should come up on the audience when the VOICE OF THE LIVING NEWSPAPER asks them the final question, relieving them from the direct pressing anxiety of the space, bit leaving them with the query: Can they tell?

In complete darkness, the glaring light of the projection reads: "We will have to run a new test with new parameters and a new memory bank. Reset. Moving forward."

Blackout.

THE END

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