

Assignment: Write a focused, well-organized, well-supported essay that evaluates technological innovations described in one of the first three chapters from Kaku’s book. Your essay should provide an overall argument based on the benefits and drawbacks that future technology might bring. Overall, will potential benefits outweigh possible drawbacks, or is it the other way around? Why?

Notes:

In this essay, you are imagining the world with new technologies, and you are speculating about the possible impact they might have.

Basically, you want to pick material from Kaku’s book that interests you, think about it, and present it in the form of an argument that offers an overall evaluation. When it comes to the technologies you’re considering, what do you think? For example, do you think we have more to gain or more to lose by embracing these technologies? Do you think certain technologies have potential problems, or might not even be possible? Might there be negative consequences or side effects we should especially keep in mind? What might be downplayed or left out of Kaku’s picture of these technologies in our future world?

Key Tips:

- Decide on a clear focus:
 - For the chapter you select, you’ll probably just want to focus on two (maybe one or, at most, three) specific examples of future technology (for example, driverless cars and internet glasses) or perhaps two key concepts relating to future technology (for example, artificial intelligence and “when robots exceed humans”).
- Whether you focus more on the benefits or drawbacks of future technology, be sure to give at least some thoughtful consideration to both possibilities.
- Strive for effective organization. Since this essay looks at various technologies as well as their advantages and disadvantages, there are a variety of ways to organize it. There is no right or wrong organizational strategy, but each paragraph needs clear paragraph unity. A good way to achieve this is to announce, up front in a topic sentence, the main claim of each paragraph—this sends a clear message about what the paragraph intends to cover.

General Writing Objectives: Strive to communicate your argument in an effective and credible manner. Your basic writing goals are these:

- Maintain a clear focus. Signal your key points clearly by making your thesis statement (a specific claim in your introduction) and topic sentences easy to find.
- Make your presentation engaging. Take advantage especially of the spots where engaging your readers matters the most: the opening and the conclusion. Create interest in the topic and leave readers feeling like the topic matters to them.
- Support your main points with developed body paragraphs. Include examples, explain ideas clearly, select relevant details, and provide quotes (at least three, and at least two of them should be from the chapter you focus on). To add strength to support, include specific and vivid details—the kind of details readers remember.
- Organize your essay by creating clear topic sentences, unified paragraphs, and smooth transitions.
- Establish credibility by presenting an academic-looking paper. Maintain a respectful tone, quote and cite according to MLA format, and carefully proofread your essay.

Avoid Plagiarism—don't let another source speak for you and rob you of a chance to think and write for yourself; if you use outside sources, give them credit; acknowledge, quote, and cite them whenever necessary.

- Your essay needs to be uploaded to Turnitin.com online (this will be explained in class) and also needs to be submitted as a paper copy.

Grading Criteria: Papers will be evaluated upon the effectiveness and clarity with which they address the assignment and meet its objectives.

Note: If you're interested in approaching this essay from a different angle, please check with me.

Format: Four complete pages (approx. 1400 words), minimum, not including the works cited page. MLA style, typed, 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced.

Rough Draft: This is due for peer review one class before the final draft. Bring two typed copies of your rough draft. At minimum, drafts need to reach the top of the 3rd page. Also, students also need to be in class for peer review credit. Not meeting these goals reduces an essay's final score by 3.5 points.

Percentage of Course Grade: 20%

Due Dates: See our class Reading and Assignment Schedule.