

The Expansive Unknown

As we navigate a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, questions about its impact on society, ethics, and our very existence demand our attention. We must examine the implications of AI to ensure that our technological advancements align with our aspirations for the future. While these first two sentences show a promising hook written by the hands of a high school student, they were created from the transcendent mind of artificial intelligence. I do not wish to discredit this essay by instilling a false sense of security in the validity of my writing. Instead, I sought to provoke a deep understanding of the ever-growing capabilities of artificial intelligence. A technological mind working in a real-world scenario proffers important negative and positive implications. One side of the fence claims that AI is the future of a utopian society and that we can solve the world's problems because it's incapable of human error. On the other darker side, we see claims of AI being the death of all forms of creativity.

There is a very significant book series that computer scientists enjoy quoting: Neal Shusterman's "Sythe." This series contains a powerful and benevolent AI presence named the "Thunderhead." The Thunderhead erases humanity's problems, from sickness to world hunger, and all discrimination, creating an unblemished world. While it is unrealistic to compare our world to a world of fiction, we can draw parallels to the nature of the ever-improving AI technology. We see instances where AI is deft to produce a solution when given complex issues. Even if these "solutions" are something easy to come by, we may reach a point where these solutions are beyond a simple sapient idea. AI has the potential to fix economies, give advice to troubled people, and command us where to take our next step without the fear of error.

There was a day when I was busy painting at my desk. I own a small art business that supports me financially. On this particular day, I got a message from my mother. She was raving about these owl images she found from a professional photographer on Facebook. I looked at the pictures and was astounded by their intense beauty. After looking at a few, one caught my attention- an image of an owl species that didn't exist. Upon further research, I found that every image was AI-generated and posted on social media to gain a following of people like my mother to gawk over. I looked at the painting on my desk and was stricken with dread. How many people were being scammed by fake AI-generated art? How many artists had their hard work stolen and generated into a prompt for free use? These questions concern all present artists. AI is now able to mock human innovation without credit. Like the hook of this essay, it steals the chance for us to express ourselves. We can observe how expression through art, writing, and music has led to revolution throughout history. With AI, all human work may become obsolete.

Each side is arguably correct. Since the future of AI is unknown, we cannot pinpoint what will become of the world, whether good or bad. To decide if the use of AI is morally right becomes subjective. But one thing is certain, it is up to us as human beings to draw the limits of AI, or else we may see a future where it is drawn for us.