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Placement Essay

14 June 2010

### Machines: An Evolving Race

Technology has been advancing exponentially throughout the last fifty years. Machines such as phones that require no cords, devices that pinpoint ones exact location, and of course the creation of the world-wide web, allowing for communication and information at our world's fingertips that people of our past could never have imagined. The weary attitude displayed by past generations during the addition of these technological advancements has always been clear. Society does not like change. And yet as these innovative inventions became a part of the past, adaption occurred and change allowed for these creations to become a mere part of everyone's lives. Robots are now next on this great list in technological progressions. It is clear that at first new changes are frowned upon, yet eventually are accepted. Will history not repeat itself? No, robots are unlike any invention ever created or seen. With technology advancing as much as it has in the past five years, artificial intelligence has become less of a fantasy and more of a reality. With this in mind, these machines are going to be unlike any other innovation. Functioning and interacting by their lonesome, humans will have to build a new type of trust, a trust that many are not willing to form. At the same time, these people have already forgotten just how much trust they already put in machines used in everyday life. As much as most of the community claims the introduction of machines will affect the world in a negative way, they forget about their machines that they cannot function without. Whether we like it or not, machines are an enormous part of our lives and always will be. Machines offer a way to help and

enhance society in ways that other humans cannot and because of this technology regarding them should be researched and advanced.

Machines are able to offer assistance in many ways that humans cannot present. They can generate infinite amounts of information and allow for ease in everyday tasks. Whether they are used for entertainment purposes or as an essential business aid, machines are a necessary part of our lives. Someone talking on a phone or, like me, somebody typing a paper on their computer uses technology and machines. Machines are a key part in a functional society and without them we would be lost. Technology and machines continue to advance our society and connect us in unimaginable ways; they certainly do not hinder interpersonal communication. Imagine a day without a computer, a cell phone, or even something as simple as an alarm clock. We would not be able to start our day, contact important people, or for many, work at our jobs. A father halfway around the world from his son is able to call and make the connection the child needs from him. Machines have changed our society and deserve a place in them in the future to come.

Some people argue that machines diminish human interactions, which hurts our society as a whole. They declare that if we introduce more machines such as robots, then humans will never work together and just communicate with robots. Mataric says, "...robotic interaction should not replace human interaction, it should only improve it." She knows the severity of the risks in this subject and, like most scientists working with robotics, she is taking the necessary steps in making sure this does not happen. They also claim that robots will start to take over our working class resulting in a loss of jobs for those who need them. In some cases, though, this has already occurred. Assembly lines are key examples of how machines have begun to replace human jobs. And yet no one is complaining. These robots are merely doing the dirty work that other humans do not want to do. Machines get as much power as we give them and we can limit

them in any way we want. Many forget that fact when talk of artificial intelligence begins. As for the issue of communication, machines often act as an aid. Devices such as cell phones help us to be in constant contact from almost anywhere around the globe. A combination of computers, webcams, and an internet connection allow us to virtually be in the same room to conduct meetings with other companies around the world. Although some may say that machines place a limit on our communication, they are actually enabling it in ways that we could never have imagined.

Machines offer humans great advantages as society grows and advances. Machines allow for tasks to be completed faster, more efficiently and most importantly with a quality that would be far more difficult to achieve without them. Although some will claim that they are only going to hurt society, most will find that they already use machines in their everyday life. Machines have been a part of the past, are a part of the present, and will be a part of the future. It would be possible to live our daily lives without machines, and for this reason they are an essential part of our society.