Lesson Plan

Take a Stand

Book: *Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Debates*
Series: Artificial Intelligence
Level: Voyager

Objective
To help students succinctly explain complicated debates and conduct online research to write a persuasive essay about the use of AI.

Supplies
- *Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Debates* book
- Computers with internet access

Before the Activity
Read through the *Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Debates* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity
Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Debates mentions a number of ethical debates about the use of artificial intelligence and whether it benefits or hurts humankind. Go through each of the debates and call on students to summarize the debate, making sure to explain both sides:
- AI in Health Care: AI can help nurses and doctors with patient records and triage, but AI's decision-making ability is only as good as its data set, and incomplete or biased data could lead AI to make life-endangering decisions.
- Data and Privacy: Data mining allows websites to target users with personalized content they would be interested in, but users often don't have a say in how their information is used and whom it is shared with.
- AI in Criminal Justice: Algorithms can help judges make sentencing decisions and help police know where to patrol in order to prevent crime, but biased data can mean law enforcement is unfairly targeting minority communities.
- AI in the Workforce: AI data analysis can save workers time and effort, but it might also push humans out of certain jobs.
- AI in the Military: AI programs can help soldiers with training and surveillance, but many people do not want AI to be given the ability to autonomously kill.

Have students choose one of the debates to focus on. Students will write a five-paragraph persuasive essay in which they argue for or against the use of AI in their chosen area. To write

their essays, students can use the *Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Debates* book. Students should also find an online article from a reputable source that contributes to their argument. Students should include the link to that article at the top of their essays, and they should use the following outline for their essays:

- An introductory paragraph that includes a thesis statement, in which the student clearly argues for or against the use of AI in a specific field
- Three body paragraphs, each one providing unique supporting evidence for the thesis statement and specific examples where appropriate
- A concluding paragraph that sums up the student's argument and closes the essay in an original way

Evaluation

Collect the essays and give each student up to 50 points:

- 5 points for an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement that clearly takes a stand on the use of AI
- 5 points for each of the three body paragraphs that provides clear support for the thesis statement
- 5 points for providing appropriate examples and details in the body paragraphs
- 5 points for a concluding paragraph that summarizes the student's argument
- 5 points for a well-organized and persuasive argument
- 5 points for writing that is relatively free of grammatical and spelling errors
- 5 points for choosing an appropriate article from a reputable source to add support for the thesis statement
- 5 points for including the link to that website at the top of the essay

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 8 (W 8.1, 8.7), and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard F, grades 5–8.