

Writing 2

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“Welcome to the UC Irvine Museum! UC Irvine used to be a research university, but due to rapid technological advances in the past two decades, it is now obsolete and has become one of Southern California’s hottest tourist attractions. Alright, everyone! Please step all the way into the portal or you will get separated from the rest of the group!” I called out to a group of eager and restless robo-teens. My message was sent directly to each of their ear pieces and they all quickly grouped together inside teleportation portal.

“Where is this portal going to take us?” asked an excited 17 year-old robo-boy.

I had just begun to explain, “We will be transported over Watson Bridge, to a place once known as “Flag Poles...” when we were staring at an empty roundabout that brought back a rush of memories. I lined the robo-teens up and asked them to turn on their “Airwatch” mode. Each one of them quickly widened their eyes and one by one, their eyes turned white, indicating they were ready.

“Playback Flagpoles 2017,” I commanded, and each of the robo-teens were now watching a dance performance by human college students from 2017. The scene then switched to human-students protesting the election of Former President Trump, followed by a scene of The Anteater Express Fair.

“Woah! What is that huge, blue thing on wheels?!” screamed one of the robo-teens.

The robo-teens faces frowned in dismay when they heard about the archaic concept of shuttle buses. “So they couldn’t teleport?” “But won’t that take at least ten minutes?” “Isn’t it a waste of time?” and finally, the million-dollar question was asked, “Why did people even go to college?”

I knew my answer wouldn't make sense to them, but I proceeded to answer. "Playback College Career Fair 2013," I commanded, and they were all now seeing a College Counselor speaking in front of my high school twenty years ago...

"Why should you go to college? Well, according to *The Common Application*, 'College is the most valuable investment you can make in your future – both financially and personally.' College will allow you to get a better job, earn a bigger salary, and ultimately, live a better life. College is about stepping outside of your comfort zone, building new friendships, immersing yourself in diversity, and broadening your horizons."

The robo-teens looked confused; of course they would—no matter how many years they spent in college, their human brains would never be as capable as the machines running today's workforce. As Bill Joy correctly predicted thirty-seven years ago, machines were now able to think more intelligently than humans, and they were now the ones making all the decisions for society. These robo-teens will never need to develop leadership skills, will never need to learn about their role in impacting society, and will never need to push themselves to grow...simply because today's world no longer needs them. They are mere trinkets that had been salvaged from The Human Plague of 2035. They will never need to become leaders, they will never need to pursue groundbreaking research, they will never need to learn about diversity, identity, and social justice. They will never know a world where they worked their way up to the top (without using their playback feature).