ROBOPOCALYPSE VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Daniel H. Wilson Part 1: Writing Robopocalypse

1. *Robopocalypse* author Daniel Wilson faced rejection multiple times as a young author. Think of a time when you faced rejection? How did you take the rejection and use it to improve your work and/or yourself?
2. Wilson talks about genetic algorithms, in which a machine is capable of learning for problem solving. If you were to program something to teach a robot, what would you teach the robot to do? Why?
3. Imagine the robot in the aforementioned question turns on you and begins to attack. How would you survive? What would you do?
4. Wilson discusses "the killer robot" as the reflection of mankind's hesitance toward improving technology. Why do you believe mankind has a fear of technology over taking mankind? Do you share this fear?

Daniel H. Wilson Part 2: A Reading from Robogenesis

1. Before watching the video take a moment to consider your favorite novel or movie sequel. What made this sequel successful? Why do you like it so much?
2. If you had to write a novel about robots, what would your plotline be? Why?
3. Do you believe that AI are more capable of understanding mankind than mankind itself?

Daniel H. Wilson Part 3: Q&A

1. *Robopocalypse* author Daniel Wilson explains that his PhD helped his credibility come writing about robots. Imagine you had to write a science fiction novel and become highly-versed in one scientific field. What field would you choose to pursue? What kind of novel would you write with that knowledge?
2. Having a strong work ethic is vital to accomplishing many things in life, whether it be grad school or writing a Newbery prize winning novel. What are some tactics you use to motivate yourself to do work?

3. Wilson expresses his discontent with the popular trend of robots obsessing over human beings. Instead, he takes the robot genre and puts a spin on it. If you had to write a story about robots, how would you make it your own? What would your plot be?

David Gunkel Part 1: The Machine Question and Robot Ethics

1. Before watching the video, jot down your current feelings towards AI rights and human nature. Are you afraid of the advances AI is making? Do you encourage them?
2. Do you believe AI like Archos seen in Daniel Wilson's *Roboapocalypse* are disposable like a broken iPad? Why or why not?
3. What circumstances would need to exist for you to consider a robot as a person?
4. Some scientists believe robots are the next evolutionary step in the Earth's history. Do you believe this? If not what do you believe is mankind's next evolutionary step? Why?

David Gunkel Part 2: Science Fiction and the Laws of Robotics

1. Dr. Gunkle explains that science fiction is less about predicting the future and more about projecting our current fears in a futuristic setting. Think critically about any science fiction novel or movie you've experienced. How are modern day fears being projected in that piece of work?
2. Now that you know the three laws of robotics, what are your opinions on the three laws? What are some conflicts you can imagine rising from these three laws?
3. Very recently a Russian computer passed a test in which it was capable of fooling people into thinking they were talking to a real person. What is your opinion on this test? Do you believe it is valid or could you see some flaws in it? Explain.

David Gunkel Part 3: The Future and Preventing the Robopocalypse

1. How would you feel if a robot were to serve you at say a McDonalds? How would you feel if your only alternative for elder care was an AI robot?
2. Do you believe you could become attached to a robot? Why or why not?
3. What do you believe is the closest thing mankind currently has to socially-interactive robots?
4. What programming requirement do you believe is important when creating an AI?