

TEAMS Essay Challenge:

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way of life for people globally, from the ability to travel to finding supplies that had previously been commonplace. As the general public began to quarantine, the demand for some resources exponentially increased, while the demand for other resources decreased, impacting the global economy. For example, the demand for masks and delivery services has increased, while in-store shopping and restaurant dining have decreased. Conversely, productivity has decreased for many reasons, such as worker availability. The disruption to the relationship between supply and demand has put a strain on our resources and, subsequently, the economy.

As the nation went through the pandemic, engineering advances continued. The increased need for automation and acceleration are on the forefront of the robotics industry in order to deal with the impacts of the global pandemic. Social robotics is also being explored along with the push to evolve and innovate AI (artificial intelligence).

How can the use of robotics be expanded to address this imbalance of supply and demand as a result of the pandemic? In your essay, define the problem addressed and clearly describe the application of robotics, including the advantages of implementing robotics. Discuss the potential innovations needed and possible negative impacts of your proposed solutions that affect both individuals and society.

Regulations:

1. Essays must be no longer than 1,000 words (not including bibliography).
2. Essays must be typed and double-spaced. They may not be handwritten.
3. Acceptable fonts are 12 point Times New Roman or 12 point Arial.
4. Essays should be formatted according to APA guidelines, including bibliography. A short abstract must be included. The abstract is not part of the word count.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>

Submission Procedure:

Essays must be submitted electronically via the submission link provided in the coach online account no later than **Friday, February 26, 2021**. Essay regulations and rubrics are posted in the coach online account.

Important: Please note the following before uploading the essay:

- The adult coach of the team must submit the entry.
- Coaches with only one team submitting an entry should click on “Team A” for the entry.
- Include your Online Testing Team ID with your essay submission. Your Online Testing Team ID is located in your coach account. The ID format is as follows: (Team ID) – (1 or 2 for Grade Level) – (Letter for Team Designation). Example: 1234 – 1 – A.

NOTE: The submitting coach will receive an automatic email verifying that the submission has been received. If you do not receive a verifying email within an hour of submitting the essay, please contact [Amber Williams](#).