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The Truth Behind the Machine: Uncovering How AI Impacts the United States
Through Misinformation, Influence, and Over-automation

Abstract

This journal article focuses on the questions: How does artificial intelligence impact the United States through false social media posts, false advertisements, and threats to national security? What modes of regulation can the federal government take to protect decision-making, autonomy, and security of the country? The thesis that stems from this research states that, from the research conducted, artificial intelligence impacts voting through false headlines and false advertisements due to the unrestricted access Americans have to programs like OpenAI and DALL-E. The lack of misinformation checkers on social media websites further adds to this issue by permitting users to confuse the public by posting mis or disinformation, with little to no repercussions on their end. The federal government can put restrictions on what people can and cannot create with artificial intelligence, regarding political or national issues, to protect our autonomy, decision-making, and, in some cases, national security. Research on how artificial intelligence impacts voters in the United States by allowing users to generate false information to deliberately misinform others, allowing the government to unconstitutionally check the internet usage of its inhabitants, challenging the ideas of a traditional democracy, and lastly, polarizing America through social media algorithms was all conducted through examining scholarship on similar topics. Research was also conducted by helping an elderly woman in the community,

creating a curriculum for a teach-in, as well as a survey, and finally, constructing a petition directed toward California representatives, Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff. Findings reveal that artificial intelligence does play a significant role in challenging democracy, threatening national security, and limiting individual thinking. Although there were limitations to the research, ultimately, the research question was partially answered.

I. Introduction

This paper discusses how AI is and will continue to affect voting in the United States. Artificial intelligence has made its way through American political systems by creating headlines, TikTok videos, false political campaigns, false advertisements, phone calls, and deepfakes. In this past election, prior to President Biden dropping out, there was a particular instance of artificial intelligence being used to sway voters in opposite directions, and if it had gone unnoticed, it could have been a disaster. Political consultant Steven Kramer was fined six million dollars for using artificial intelligence technology to mimic President Biden's voice for a phone call. The purpose of this call was to stop Democrats from voting in the primaries. Lingo Telecom, the company responsible for sending out the calls, which supposedly stated that Biden told Democrats that voting in the primaries would make them ineligible to vote in November because they would have already used their vote, was fined two million dollars for allowing this to happen. Kramer faced numerous criminal charges, thirteen felonies, and thirteen misdemeanors, and was required to pay a six-million-dollar fine (Seitz-Wald). This project will aim to answer the question: How does artificial intelligence impact the United States through false social media posts, false advertisements, and threats to national security? What modes of regulation can the federal government take to protect decision-making, autonomy, and security of the country?

II. Literature Review

Through researching the topic of artificial intelligence and how it affects Americans, it became prevalent that the media and open use of these intelligence programs are mostly to blame for the mass polarization in the country. While reviewing the information below, readers will find information on concepts like Big Brother, polarization, the intentions of social media companies, and the dangers of public artificial intelligence use on American democracy.

The first journal article, “Articles The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Freedom, Rationality, Rule of Law and Democracy: Should We Not Be Debating It?”, written by Ciprian Radavoi, inspires the background of this project. This article reveals how big an effect artificial intelligence has on the lives of Americans, and how many people might not even realize it. The government constantly takes information from surveys, voting, registration, and website usage by using AI to compute the data, resulting in fear among the population to search for information, such as “the exploration of taboo information on terrorists' websites out of the fear that this will turn Big Brother's eyes on us” (Radavoi 109). Even though not a lot of people are aware of the specifics, they do know that the government is watching. Even though it does not bother them while they go about their daily lives, or maybe they do not stop to think about it, it does affect them when they feel the need to search for something taboo. The fear is that they will end up on a government's watch list because the government does have access to your internet service provider and can gain access to your search history, IP address, name, and home or work addresses, all without a warrant. This starts to infringe on freedom and the First Amendment and the implied right to privacy. The data of anyone residing in the U.S. is at risk due to the fact that people willingly throw away personal data on websites without realizing it, also known as

website cookies, which sell personal data to companies and allow for unwanted emails, texts, junk mail, and advertisements based on user views, interests and saved preferences. By allowing these services to gain access to our information, society gives artificial intelligence more knowledge about cultural, political, and moral issues, as well as providing insight into how Americans live. With the up-and-coming use of AI in the workplace, it is essential to be especially vigilant about how that affects people. Especially with the government being known for keeping secrets from the public, AI aids the government in watching our every move by collecting our data (Office), which is quite terrifying.

Similar ideals are shown in the second article, titled “ Artificial Intelligence, Deepfakes, and Disinformation” by Todd C. Helmus. He starts with the question, How can people distinguish what is real from what is deepfake? Although a lot of deepfake videos online are of politicians or celebrities dancing, they can indeed be used to combat democracy. Statistics from this journal show that “High-quality deepfakes currently require many thousands of images of training data, which is why such videos often feature celebrities and politicians” (Helmus). Due to the highly photographed nature of this select group, it is dangerously easy to create false videos and advertisements. The researchers collected data from a multitude of different situations, such as observing developing countries and seeing how AI harmed the Russian government. During past election years in Russia, Deepfake was used to fabricate high-quality voice recordings to mislead the public, which was also seen in the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election with Steven Kramer. This impacted the Russian people because they began to lose trust in their government, and the deepfakes made opponents look less favorable, which caused voters to base their information on falsehoods. With the development of AI in the U.S., this is a fear and a threat to democracy. The development of AI in the U.S. creates fear and threatens democracy.

The results of the study concluded that deepfakes can become incredibly dangerous, and will only become easier to create as technology develops. “More technological advances and pictures uploaded to the internet will only continue to hurt America’s political system.

Another threat to democracy was exhibited in an article titled, “The Death of Truth?” Sasha Mehter describes how easy it is to spread propaganda online, and how it leads the public to trust the government less and the media more. The false content being posted online is specifically aimed at the government, political figures, laws, and celebrities. This article emphasizes that when one is behind a screen, they have a level of anonymity; they can be brave because no one can retaliate. This has come to deeply affect the American people through mass and extreme polarization. As the article says, “[misinformation] [deepens] public distrust and further [erodes] the social fabric” (Mehter). The continuation of losing trust in the government due to what is posted on social media can become a huge issue down the line. If Americans can no longer trust the government, we will see a shift in voting, morale, and overall feeling toward this country; this will cause further polarization and can further push back the effort to coexist. The public should be able to trust the government, and the people spreading false information with malicious intent should be punished for creating distrust. Many people can spread propaganda on platforms like Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and TikTok, which are being used to spread content because the manufacturers of these sites overvalue the privacy of their users and because of the non-restrictive access to artificial intelligence over the truth behind these posts. Most Americans with technology can create whatever they want, and depending on the platform, there are few to no ways to determine the veracity of a post without doing a web search. Mehter states, “...a single false post can destroy a reputation within hours”(Mehter). This is true and sad because of the lack of misinformation checkers. If people want to know what

is real and what is fake, they need to research it on their own time, which most Americans would not have the time or interest to do. Social media platforms deliberately enable us to polarize.

Polarization pushed by media companies is further studied in an article written by Zicheng Cheng. The article titled “Birds of a Feather Get Angrier Together: Social Media News Use and Social Media Political Homophily as Antecedents of Political Anger”, highlights why polarization happens from a deep psychological level as well as the surface-level government view. Half of the population receives its news from social media (Cheng). When it is thought about like that, it begs the question: How much of this news is true? How will this affect the population regarding polarization? This is always the danger in receiving news from sources that might not be true. What is especially surprising is that this statistic applies to the entire human population, not just the U.S. “Evidence shows that around 50% of the population gets news from social media with some regularity, and the figures could be even starker among Europeans, especially younger generations” (Cheng). Because similar people interact with each other more, it causes these huge outbreaks on social media with bond-breaking arguments. The anger increases because of “social sorting [which] contributes to political anger by making people more reactive to group threat” (Cheng). A group threat is better known as a perceived danger or challenge posed by one group to the values or status of another group, often leading to tension or conflict. Members often have an extremely negative view of the out-group, which causes even more discord. One side tries to defend itself while the other argues that they are “wrong” or “bad”. For example, a Republican would see videos supporting the democratic party on their feed, along with other Republicans who see the same video; this causes them to argue with the Democrats in the comments section with their fellow Republicans, and vice versa. Even when people do not know what to say in an argument, the commenters can say whatever they want

because they know their side will back them up. They want to feel important and like they add to the fight.

As most of the content users fight over is fake, Elizabeth Rholetter Purdy sees the importance of distinguishing between true and false. Her research shows that misinformation can be very appealing to the public because of how excited, angry, and resentful they get. This is a big issue, especially because 67% of Americans use social media to get their news. Not everyone falls for misinformation; however, the people who do are not “politically savvy” (Rholetter Purdy). Those who are actively trying to avoid misinformation will look deeper into the sources from which they received their information, which sometimes can be fake articles as well. This can be especially harmful because news sources do not have filters that tell people what is “clickbait” or is not. Even though there are many fact-checker websites, there is so much misinformation that it is hard to combat. This has been seen in the recent awakening of the term “fake news,” which was started by President Trump in 2017 during his first term. Since then, there has been a boom of misinformation, and this term is being thrown around a lot more. Misinformation can also be spread via photos and videos. Even though it is common knowledge that media can be altered with artificial intelligence, the angles and moments from which the photo or video was taken can alter the story. This was frequently seen in news stories during the 2024 election. A right-leaning station will take Harris’s speech out of context by clipping a certain portion, and a left-leaning source will take clips of Trump’s speeches so that the public does not have the full information. Examples of this are Kamala Harris’s “coconut tree” comment and Donald Trump’s “they’re eating the cats, they’re eating the dogs” comment that went so viral on TikTok they were both remixed into songs. Using misinformation to create TikTok trends causes voters to be confused, uninformed, and uneducated on the context of

political issues when voting day comes. Both sides of the political spectrum took these trends and used them against their opponents, leading to the American people becoming flippant about serious governmental issues. Instead of pushing agendas and spreading propaganda, news stations and social media platforms should be more focused on giving voters the correct information, so they can decide independently.

Additionally, Ünver's enlightening paper, bearing the name Artificial Intelligence, Authoritarianism and the Future of Political Systems, demonstrates how the development of artificial intelligence will dangerously affect our democracy. The purpose of this study was to educate readers that artificial intelligence, social media, and politics are closely related. They gathered information from Professor Andrew Chadwick, a British scholar specializing in political communication, digital media, and democracy, who recognized that media companies like Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram have a hybrid system of operation. They are not only social platforms, but news platforms as well. The author notes that "...humanity is undergoing a profound technological transformation"(Ünver). This is a big issue for society as we go forward in our development of technology. Continuing to increase the knowledge of technological systems can become increasingly more dangerous, especially to our democracy. Ünver also states that "Political systems, elections, decision-making, and citizenship too, are increasingly being driven by aspects or by-products of automation and algorithmic systems"(Ünver). If Artificial Intelligence gains too much power, it will infringe on our rights more than it ever has before. This level of automation can be especially dangerous to democracy because AI does what it is taught; it is not an autonomous being. For artificial intelligence to become knowledgeable, its users need to interact with it and teach it through asking questions. This becomes an issue as well for decision-making because if people ask questions on platforms

such as OpenAI, it will learn about that particular question and will influence other users asking that question. The same goes for DALL-E, OpenAI's media-generating program. Users have the ability to create an image by feeding DALL-E a description, and can then upload it to social media platforms in a matter of seconds. When one uses social media as a news source, they are prone to fake news, advertisements, and campaigns. Since most of these posts are not fact-checked, many users believe what they see at first glance, and they let it affect their voting decisions. This is all blindly followed; autonomy and the power to make independent decisions are lost. The study found that social media algorithms get very personal and that the continuation of automation can be a risk to freedom. Artificial intelligence and the development of technology have had a critical impact on the United States. The more AI creeps into the lives of the American people, the more at risk they are for national security breaches, mis and disinformation, and mass confusion. The government should find a way to serve and protect Americans from this rising issue.

The government already has a considerable presence in the social media realm, and the article, "Is the Government Tracking Your Social Media Activity?" by Layla Al and Shaiba Rather, enlightens readers on the true intentions of the U.S. government regarding social media monitoring. They mention that the Biden administration put out programs for the government to monitor the social media use of anyone residing in the United States. It is important to note that this kind of monitoring was used on non-citizens as well as a deciding factor on whether or not they gained citizenship and visas. Social media surveillance threatens the American right to free speech and can be seen as unconstitutional. Government agencies are monitoring people's social media accounts in the U.S. even if they are not suspected of criminal activity. This is concerning as well because social accounts can be used to map out friends, family, and personal data.

Suspicionless monitoring violates our constitutional right to privacy and negatively affects immigrants and those seeking asylum. An example of this was Lebanese immigrant Ismail Ajjawi. Ajjawi was interrogated for hours on his political and personal views, as well as his religious background, friends, and social media posts. His visa was immediately canceled after this meeting, and he was deported (Al, Rather). Social media monitoring is also very inefficient because it is difficult to decipher what is a serious threat and what is not. Some “threats” are jokes, and some are hidden; however, due to the high volume of posts across social media platforms, it takes too much time to dissect the information.

Another issue within the realm of artificial intelligence is AI hallucinations, meaning that artificial intelligence constantly makes mistakes. The article written by Shomit Ghose reveals how AI hallucinations can impact our economy *and* threaten national security. AI hallucinations have cost companies money and reputation. Air Canada is “[being] found financially liable by the Canadian courts for real-time statements made by its chatbot; inappropriate image generation issues.... [and is] losing \$100 billion in market value in a single day” (Ghose). This becomes an issue for the American people because their businesses are losing money as a result of AI hallucinations, an issue that can be avoided by fixing bugs in coding or by not using AI at all. This article also gives an example of a hacker who is knowledgeable of the coding language SQL, which stands for Structural Query Language, and can attack brands through surface technology. The author asks the question, “Why does generative AI hallucinate?” The answer to this question is simple on the surface. Even though source coding has been practiced for almost a century, bugs or mistakes in the code are inevitable. When there are bugs in the code for generative AI, it spews out false information, also known as “execution errors” (Ghose). Ghose

gets his information through other studies and articles on AI hallucinations, with Lei Huang, a professor at Loyola Marymount University, being a prominent reference in this specific section.

AI regulation has been tried in California, but it was unfortunately unsuccessful. Governor Gavin Newsom viewed Bill 1047, presented in California, which proposes the latest safety and oversight regulations for developing advanced artificial intelligence programs. This bill is also known as the “Safe and Secure Innovation for Frontier Artificial Intelligence Models Act”. It targets AI developers who are creating models that require a lot of resources. All developers would be required to put in a written safety and security protocol, a kill switch for emergency shutdowns, and partake in annual audits that enforce following the new regulations. The bill also requires that developers report any safety incidents involving the program/model and send that information to the state Attorney General. This bill also prohibits using these models in any way that can cause harm. Examples of this include: cyberattacks and biological threats. Even though the bill passed the California legislature, it was vetoed by Governor Gavin Newsom, who brought up the points that it could reduce and/or limit innovation and competitiveness in the AI market. SB 1047 marks the growing effort of the U.S. government to protect its inhabitants from AI.

Even though the bill was vetoed, Americans can still make a change by petitioning. The right to petition is protected by the First Amendment and is crucial to expression in society. It allows citizens to ask for changes in how systems work, request better conditions for work environments, and even make requests or complaints about situations in a non-political setting without being punished or censored. Petitioning has gone back years before Magna Carta, and in America during the peak of colonialism, it was used to resist British rule in the colonies. Petitioning was practiced by people of all backgrounds to make change happen in the New

World. The right to petition was exercised well after the Revolutionary War as well. Since this was not included in the original writing of the Constitution, it was added in 1791 under the First Amendment. In the early days of the U.S., Americans petitioned and spoke out on issues like taxes and unjust laws, just as they do now. While some petitions were considered illegal, problematic, or complicated, the country's leaders continued to acknowledge the public's right to free speech. Since then, petitioning has helped the U.S. move forward and evolve on so many issues, such as women's suffrage, civil rights, animal testing guidelines, and other political and ethical issues. In modern-day government, people still use petitions to urge the government and heads of corporations to make changes to their policies, laws, and professional morals.

In conclusion, this research delves deeper into how artificial intelligence, politics, media, and polarization in America are all connected. The main argument in this section is that the public's unrestricted use of AI creates significant divisions within the nation. Radavoi's article reveals how the U.S. government openly uses AI to monitor anyone residing in the U.S., regardless of suspicion. Their data is accessible through their Internet Protocol address. This kind of surveillance without their knowledge is unconstitutional and is used to discriminate against those seeking permanent residency in the U.S. It also raises questions about how free Americans really are and how fair and just the government is. Helmus discusses another destructive media tactic: Deep Fakes. They are being used to defame prominent figures in the media. These videos spread misinformation, mainly during major events such as both primary and presidential elections. This type of AI-generated content creates mass confusion for the American public. This was seen most recently in the 2024 Presidential Election, where many voters were misinformed on critical issues due to false media, articles, and other forms of communication. Polarization caused by artificial intelligence is also considered on a psychological level. Articles

written by Cheng and Meheter reference social media platforms such as TikTok, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter). They explain how artificial intelligence on social media platforms deliberately fuels polarization and leads users to use the group-threat tactic, creating more political anger and spreading more misinformation. This danger intensifies as AI becomes more integrated into news, which often blurs the line between what is and is not real. Rholetter Purdy and Ünver emphasize that social media algorithms personalize content to specific users, which can do one of two things: aggravate them, or bring them closer together to create group threats, like Cheng mentioned. This threatens decision-making and autonomy because people stop researching and relying on their own sources, and instead rely on false content and peer influence. Even though lawmakers have attempted to regulate AI in certain industries, such as customer service agencies being required to tell customers when they're interacting with AI, efforts are hindered by concerns about the development of the country and technology. Ultimately, this research suggests that AI-generated content and media manipulation will continue to erode trust, increase polarization, and change the foundations of American democracy as time goes on

III. Fieldwork and Plan of Action

In addition to researching existing literature, this project includes fieldwork in the form of community service. While assisting an elderly woman from a local church in Pasadena, California, valuable insight into advocacy work was learned. Mrs. Cristina Messetzian is 70 years old and does not like to do tasks alone. Assistance was provided to her with holiday shopping, grocery shopping, and home organization. This service opportunity took place for a total of ten hours and developed an unforgettable friendship. She was very sweet and offered lunch so she could learn more about this project. During lunch, she described her experiences as

an immigrant in America and the differences between here to her home country. She spoke about friends she had, how hard it was to live in America when she did not speak English well, and even how she met her husband. While shopping, tasks included holding heavy bags, sharing opinions on gifts for her grandchildren, who were just a few years younger, and even helping with directions while driving. This experience was eye-opening and allowed others to expand their worldview, learn about her culture, and help her shop for the holidays. The opportunity to help her organize her pantry was greatly appreciated as well. She was unable to do heavy lifting and bending due to health issues, and she was eternally grateful for the help provided. The pantry had to be organized row by row, old food had to be discarded, and everything needed its place; instead of things being stacked on top of each other. At first glance, the pantry was daunting; however, conversing while cleaning made the time go by faster. During the spent time together, the project was explained to her, specifically information on how Facebook is a major source of misinformation, which made a lasting impact on how she viewed the internet and the information it contained. It became apparent that people of all ages are concerned about how AI is developing, which was a big inspiration to take action. This experience was crucial to self-discovery and growth. This experience helped shape this project by inspiring a call to action. Discussing this topic with Messetzian made it apparent that this is not how many Americans want to proceed with their lives. Artificial intelligence makes many people uncomfortable, and regulations need to be in place to protect the free will of the American people.

For the interview component, I interviewed Diana Laura González Ríos, an AI specialist at Skilled Wound Care. The questions asked were: Can AI cause a data breach in the U.S.? If so, how? If not, does the U.S. of AI at the federal level pose any dangers? Her answer to this question was very informative. González Ríos says, “The short answer is **YES**, and most likely

because of the users rather than the providers (as OpenAI with GPT), but I'm not excluding them...If you use your computer, are you sure that your computer is clean? Like, it doesn't have any vulnerabilities as spyware or malware? Or, if you use your cellphone or tablet, are you sure that you don't have any app installed that has access to your keyboard (maybe for personalization) or your local files? Well, maybe you don't; the young people are more familiar with technology and have learned about trustworthy providers (sometimes), but what about your parents? Or uncles? Or grandparents? Those people are the most vulnerable to this kind of breach” (González Ríos). Another question that addresses misinformation was How have you seen generative AI becoming an issue through misinformation and false claims? She responded, “..it's not like the AI suddenly will start to misinform people; it just means that if the AI sees an idea repeated frequently, even if that idea is proven false, since the idea keeps repeating (maybe through social media or by users) the AI will take that statement as valid and will continue to replicate it and distribute it” (González Ríos). Then she was asked, Will removing generative AI make it even harder for people to live in big cities such as Los Angeles and New York? The answer, “Yes, our current style relies a lot on automatized processes, and people are already adapting to AI as a tool, using it to learn things for their jobs or even making their jobs easier to manage their routines and continue living their lives the best they can. Right now is more like a situation where people are against industry, and if the big cities are already automatized through different methods, not only generative AI (Gen-AI), so if you just delete Gen-AI, you will not affect that much the industry, you may slow their automatization process, but you are affecting more the people who lives in big cities and who aren't in a economical position for get the knowledge or abilities needed to keep up with industrialization” (González Ríos). It would be of value to take direct action in this matter. It is important to engage in both activism and advocacy

for this topic. Americans should feel free to defend themselves on the issue of whether or not they want artificial intelligence to control their lives and polarize this country further. However, taking direct action by way of advocacy is the best approach to making change. If there is no hands-on attempt towards regulating AI, there will be no pivotal transformations for the country. For my plan of action, I decided to hold a teach-in and make a petition for Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla to write a bill instead of writing it myself, due to time constraints. Unfortunately, the teach-in could not happen because of poor scheduling, and I was not able to collect data on how the age group fifteen and above has been affected by artificial intelligence. The petition titled, “Write a Bill! Regulate Generative AI: Protect Autonomy, Job Security, and Privacy!! has gotten twenty-five signatures so far, even though the goal was sixty. The hope is that even though the action plan portion of the project is over, more people will find the petition and sign it. Making this petition was not about doing it for points; it was about making a difference and a real change. Through talking about this journal on social media, I was able to reach an unexpected audience of all age groups and ethnicities. It was a way for Americans to come together, fight for change, and exercise our First Amendment rights. The purpose is still to gain the attention of lawmakers, and my dream end goal for this project is for a bill to be written that will keep existing AI laws in place and directly regulate the use of AI in the workplace, in political settings. This bill should also regulate Deepfakes, which use images of politicians and celebrities to depict them in compromising situations and fake interviews where the Deepfake version of a figure spews out false information to trick the public into believing what they are saying is true. Throughout researching Deepfakes, it has been noticed that AI generated content is getting more and more believable as technology advances, which can become incredibly dangerous, especially for older generations, as mentioned earlier.

IV. Findings/ Results

The findings from this research were mostly conclusive. González Ríos's answers to the questions above were crucial to answering the research question inspiring this journal. When addressing the data breach and misinformation questions, she brought up a group of people who are often forgotten in conversations about artificial intelligence and technology: those 55 and older. The younger generations assume that everyone is informed about the newest technological advancements and that they will be able to identify what is AI-generated. This also leads to them giving their passwords to websites designed to hack their information. The email and password information can give hackers leeway into bank accounts, social media platforms, and addresses. This also means that if personal information is shared on AI platforms, and a hacker were able to get into the server, it could cause a major breach of security. Since the older group generally has a harder time identifying AI-generated content, it becomes an issue during the voting seasons when they are misinformed on political topics because the information they received prior was false. This was seen during the field work section with Cristina Messeztian, who receives a lot of her information from Facebook, a platform notorious for spreading misinformation. González Ríos's answer to the question regarding AI regulation in bigger cities was also quite informative. The elimination of AI in the workforce or other industries mainly hurts people who cannot afford to be educated on the new advancements, so they fall behind. It makes one think about what groups will be affected by this shift the most, and how to aid them in overcoming the unfair advantage. The research questions inspiring this journal article are: How does artificial intelligence impact the United States through false social media posts, false advertisements, and threats to national security? What modes of regulation can the federal government take to protect decision-making, autonomy, and security of the country? This can now be partially answered.

Without a doubt, Artificial Intelligence heavily impacts the United States by challenging the structure of our democracy. By posting AI-generated content on social media, users are often disillusioned by false claims, Deep Fakes, and comments. Most of these viewers do not have the time or inclination to look deeper into where this information came from, the veracity of the statement, or why it was posted in the first place. Additionally, Deep Fakes are being used to create fake endorsements and campaign ideas, then voters make decisions based on peer influence and false information, which leads to them becoming disappointed when these so-called policies never go into effect. National security is also threatened in a similar way to how TikTok is a threat. The government sees TikTok as hazardous because its user data is stored within a Chinese company. AI platforms operate in very similar ways. Even though programs such as OpenAI are American-run, other platforms like DeepSeek are run by Chinese companies. User data is being stored in clouds, which, if hacked, could leak personal user data and cause major security breaches. When Meta announced that they were no longer going to use information checkers on their sites, it added to the misinformation problem further. People now get away with posting even more disinformation than they did before, which directly harms individual decision-making. It was realized that artificial intelligence is necessary in certain realms of industrialization, and if it had not been created, society would be much further behind. Eliminating AI completely would make life today significantly harder; however, according to González Ríos, it could help limit discrimination in healthcare and immigration systems. While examining the efficacy of my action plan, it was realized that the efforts were unsuccessful. The goal for the petition was at least sixty signatures, and it ended up receiving twenty-five. Although it was promoted on social media, if it had been sent through a TologNet message or email, it could have been more effective. The plan was also to share the link to the petition

during the teach-in, but because nobody showed up, I was not able to get signatures that way, nor was I able to collect important data from community members. The issue of no one being in attendance was likely due to low advertising, miscommunication, and scheduling conflicts. It had been advertised only once on morning announcements, and flyers had been posted around campus. However, there was a major communication error with a neighboring school, causing confusion all around. Through creating a petition, insight was gained into how hard it is to make a change and get noticed by government officials. From the survey that was formulated, valuable data on AI's impact on Gen Z was also brought to light. Gen Z is overconfident when it comes to their ability to correctly identify artificial intelligence. The impact AI has on education was another data point from the survey. One of the respondents is a college essay coach who said, "[I] have had students come to me asking for advice to decrease their AI percentage. Their papers scored high on AI usage even though they did not use AI to write them". The development of artificial intelligence in the modern world needs to be researched further, and many people need education on the topic.

V. Conclusion/Reflection/ Recommendations

The preliminary thesis in this journal was: from the research conducted, artificial intelligence impacts voting through false headlines and false advertisements due to the unrestricted access Americans have to programs like OpenAI and DALL-E. The lack of misinformation checkers on social media websites further adds to this issue by allowing users to confuse the public by posting mis or disinformation, with little to no repercussions on their end. The federal government can put restrictions on what people can and cannot create with artificial intelligence, regarding political or national issues, to protect our autonomy, decision-making, and, in some cases, national security. After completing my research, this thesis is still consistent

with what has been learned, and it has been further proven by the interview conducted with Diana Laura González Ríos as well. All of the results from this project were expected. I had some major limitations while conducting my research, such as the failed teach-in and not getting enough signatures on the petition. If there had been more time, holding the teach-in would have been possible, and majorly influential to data collection; it also could have proved the thesis further. To future scholars researching this topic, I would advise that you be precise with your search terms in order to access information more easily. It is also important to clarify certain terms, as this topic has highly complicated layers. Even though it is complicated, AI regulation is not a topic that should be shied away from. Although it is helpful, prior knowledge of computer science principles and coding knowledge are not necessary to understand the issue, and these concepts can be learned later on. This topic is incredibly important and interesting, and I would highly recommend that others look into it even if it is not in an academic setting.

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