

Wednesday Challenge Form

Group Members: Ara

Problem Statement: Would you prefer to have an external support
If you had an amputation or a bionic limb or give up.

Approach: Personally, I believe that a bionic limb would be most suitable to my personality because I have a desire to be productive or do something. I'm also pretty immature so a robo-arm to me seems kinda cool, but nothing can replace one's own organically grown limbs. But, I think that this discussion should be a broader one. The TED talks person argued that easy access to this kind of prosthetic can revolutionize the world. However, where do the limits of human augmentation lie? There are so many advantages of having a robotic arm compared to your own stock legs. It is somewhat unsettling if people would amputate themselves just to have an athletic advantage. Not to mention the mental advantages to brain augmentation. I know that I'm probably discussing an issue that is fairly far away from our timeline. These bionic prosthetics are probably the best ways to level the playing field for people who have amputations. But, I hope that our world doesn't turn into the Deus Ex world, a popular videogame. Deus Ex, although not comically, satirizes the condition of human augmentation. It asks if we are still human if we change our bodily form or are our bodies unique in that only I can experience my life with my body or are our bodies supposed to be imperfect so that we can have a purpose to continually fix ourselves? On one side the prosthetic augmentation improves life for the less fortunate, but also can lead to every one having the same body and the same life. In an essence the question is what is the balance of equality and inequality that we can tolerate in our lives? Personally, for reconstruction of damage I think it is necessary to increase overall production in the world. But, when we start talking about how dust may get into our occipital viewing screen I think we went too far.

Lessons Learned: in summary life should be improved for the less fortunate but we should know our limits.
P.S. Deus ex is derived from the term Deus ex machina meaning "god from machine"