

Artificial Intelligence

Policy Practicum

Future Ready?

As artificial intelligence races into the future, the question for society becomes are we ready for what artificial intelligence can and will mean to us?

Many individuals and governments are watching the issue closely, but watching is not the same as acting.

AI BASICS

A ready tool for acting is policy, or the laws, rules, regulations, standards, and similar guardrails put in place to help achieve an optimal outcome, or more easily accomplished, to help avoid the worst sub-optimal possibilities.

Today, you will be in the driver's seat, so buckle up, and prepare to usher humanity toward an optimal future.

- [Artificial Intelligence](#) (Wikipedia)
- [Policy](#) (Wikipedia)

Step 1: Think

You (and your group, if you are working on a team) serve as head of an international consortium of subject matter experts in the field of artificial intelligence, a blue-ribbon commission, and you are preparing to release your seminal recommendations for helping guide humanity toward an optimal future with regard to the expansion and use of artificial intelligence.

While you know that individuals, corporations, and governments all over the world are anxiously awaiting your recommendations, *you are not guaranteed that they will adopt or follow them.*

As such, you need to think about more than just what you want to accomplish, but also *how* you are going to build consensus around your recommendations, and turn them from recommendations into action.

Start by thinking through the dimensions of the problem, including the optimal outcome you are aiming for, and can and will stand in your way.

Things to consider:

- What does optimal look like for humans with regards to artificial intelligence?
- What tools / levers are available to you? Think about both positive tools (e.g., incentives), and negative tools (e.g., regulations and other restrictions).
- What are the possible unintended consequences you need to watch out for? Look for both positive and negative externalities that could impact humanity.
- How will you integrate the best thinking on this topic into your process in the future? Who should have a seat at the table?
- Who is likely to oppose efforts to impose limitations on artificial intelligence, and how will you build support to overcome that opposition?
- Who is likely to support efforts to impose limitations on artificial intelligence, and how can you use that support to build consensus around your proposals?

Act

Develop your recommendations, using whichever tools you think are best suited to the circumstances. Presume that your recommendations will carry great weight with the world, so come up with novel approaches: you are here to design the future!

Make sure you include:

- **Your goal.** A description of the optimal future your recommendations are designed to achieve;
- **Your specific recommendations.** Only recommendations that you write down will count, and disputes will be resolved by looking at the letter of the law, not the spirit of the law; and
- **Clarifying information, as appropriate.** The more specificity you provide, the more likely you are to survive the next challenge, so go back through and refine, refine, refine until the last second!

Red Team

Each team will present their policy recommendations to the group. While each team is presenting, the other team should be taking notes about how they think they can outsmart the team's policies to create an AI that is all about global domination and/or exploitation.

Doing this type of challenge is what a red team does, and it is a highly-effective form of analysis, done well.

If you are working alone, you can do this to yourself, or ask a parent to help serve as your red team!

Be sure to:

- **Cut the other team no slack!** The best way to help the other team is to find ways to break their plans!
- **Be specific.** Write down what you think would avoid their plans, and be sure to name your AI!

Think Again

You will be working with your original group now to revise your planning to take into account what you learned from the red team.

Your final results will be considered the final report and recommendations from your blue-ribbon commission, so put time and attention into making them as tight and comprehensive as possible.

Be sure to:

- **Address all red team proposals!** Time is nobody's friend, and in particular anyone working in policy. You never have enough to consider everything you want to consider, so watch your time, and make sure you don't run out before addressing everything!
- **Name it!** Come up with a clever name for your report and recommendations, so that the media can easily report on it, and people can easily discuss it!



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