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### Informative Speech

Imagine a world where humans are given the choice to live forever; a world where humans have godlike intelligence, strength, and speed(Tricolon, Parallelism); a world(Anaphora) where famine and disease no longer exist. This is the eutopia transhumanists dream of, the ideal future of humanity and biotechnology coexisting; and it's much closer than you might think.

Transhumanism is defined by the vast enhancement of the human body and consciousness through technology. It will allow for humans to conquer the biological and psychological limitations of our being. While the existence of a chip that immeasurably increases our intellect(Alliteration) may still be a few decades away, recent advancements in prosthetics and human brain interface seem to show that a robotic arm or leg that is faster, stronger, and more versatile(Tricolon) than a natural one is only years away. Transhumanists predict that technology replacing and enhancing the human body will only continue to become more common and advanced from here. This type of technology could easily go as far as being able to replace a dysfunctional heart with a brand new, synthetic heart that pumps blood more efficiently and without fault; or replace the lungs of a lifetime smoker with perfect biotechnically enhanced lungs. Many transhumanists believe that the existence of these basic organs of the human body would no longer even be necessary if we were able to merge our bodies with technology; as our robotic body counterparts would not need oxygen or water to continue functioning.

Of course, the existence of these technologies would bring rise to a slew of ethical, moral, and societal problems.(Tricolon) With the availability of enhancements that hugely improve strength, endurance, and speed(Tricolon); it begs the question, as David Gelles puts it “Would I appreciate it (my body) as much if I didn't sweat for it?” Would this vastly improved body truly be something you could be proud of, or would it feel undeserved? Would this body even be your own? These questions become increasingly more difficult to assess as we move into the territory of consciousness altering technology. Would you continue to be who you were if you suddenly became thousands of times more intelligent? These are all questions that will absolutely be assessed in coming decades; but it is safe to assume transhumanism will pose some serious threats to humanity as we know it.

Immortality, something that will also likely be made possible with the advent of nanotechnology and biotechnology, also poses a plethora of possible problems(Alliteration). Populations would need to freeze and reproduction would be prohibited for the average person and allowed only to the wealthy and upper class. Additionally, as Richard Godwin puts it “We need old ideas and old regimes to die. Imagine if William Randolph Hearst or Genghis Khan were still calling the shots now. And imagine if Mark Zuckerberg and Vladimir Putin were doing so in 200 years. Innovation would cease.” Without innovation or change, existence would become painfully monotonous, we would become bored with our daily lives; there would no longer be any reason to continue living other than the primal desire to survive. Without a rush to create, change or pioneer a new age(Tricolon), we, as a species, would become gridlocked.(Parenthesis)

Despite the problems that the potential enhancement of the human condition would pose, it would also bring rise to an entirely new age of evolution and consciousness. Through technology, we as a species will be allowing ourselves to evolve far faster and in a more streamlined way than ever before. In a sense, humans are the biological precursors to the superintelligent post-human beings of the future, and we will be trumped by them in every way. Transhumanism will pose a change so great to our species it will draw parallels to the first hominids striking rocks together to create fire hundreds of thousands of years ago. It will be the next, as Olivia Ward puts it “quantum leap” in civilization, consciousness, and evolution (Tricolon); and it will truly be a world indistinguishable from the one we live in today.

### Annotated Bibliography

Gelles, D. (2009, Jan). "Immortality 2.0". n.p.: n.p., n.d.. 15 Oct. 2018.  
[search.proquest.com/docview/218600611?accountid=338](https://search.proquest.com/docview/218600611?accountid=338).

This author offers a few unique points, such as the parallels between programming a computer and programming the human mind. He talks a bit about the history of transhumanism and the past struggles for immortality. He discusses the ramifications on society and the human species of the technological singularity. The author also wonders if artificial intelligence will bring about the creation of the altering of the human mind, as it is just data, just like a computer.

Godwin, R. "How to Live Forever? It's the Latest Obsession in Silicon Valley, Where they are Convinced Artificial Intelligence and Bio-enhancement can Extend Life; Meet Zoltan Istvan, the Property Developer who has Become the Poster Boy for Immortality." n.p.: n.p., 22 Jul. 2017. 15 Oct. 2018. [search.proquest.com/docview/1922201083?accountid=338](https://search.proquest.com/docview/1922201083?accountid=338).

In this article, Richard Godwin discusses how transhumanism may come to fruition through looking at companies who are currently making advancements in the field. He looks at high income, high wealth companies and people who are interested in transhumanism who can fund research and development of it. He also discusses if immortality can exist, and some hypotheses on what would make it possible. Additionally, Godwin talks about a politician and author who supports and pushes for transhumanism named Zoltan Istvan.

Ward, O. "Evolution's Next Stage?; Transhumanists Explore Ways to Overcome the Physical and Psychological Limitations of the Body; Conference Takes Quantum Leap into New Era Where 'Visionary Scientists' Lead the Way, by Olivia Ward." 25 Jul. 2004. 15 Oct. 2018.  
[search.proquest.com/docview/438729958?accountid=338](https://search.proquest.com/docview/438729958?accountid=338).

This author speaks about the everlasting struggle of humans to make themselves better in any way possible. She discusses that with transhumanism, we are taking the quantum leap that humans of the past have dreamt of for thousands of years. She states that once we combine technology with the human body, we are no longer altered by evolution, but ourselves. She questions if this change is the next stage of evolution.