English   Ms. Hernandez

Packet #7
Week of June 1

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Are You BeingWatched?

Some schools, airports, and citiesare using technology that canrecognize people's faces. Is it beingused to keep an eye on you?

SEPTEMBER 2, 2019 | By Steph Smith

JEFF MANGIAT (PHOTO ILLUSTRATION); TROY AOSSEY/GETTY IMAGES (CLASSROOM); ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES (WHITEBOARD); SHUTTERSTOCK.COM (STATIC LINES, SECURITY CAMERAS)

AS YOU READ, THINK ABOUT thebenefits and risks posed bytechnology that can recognizepeople's faces.

You're sitting in class listening to today'slesson when your mind starts to wander. At first, your teacher doesn't noticeyou've stopped

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but thecameras watching you do. They scan thefaces of you and your classmates everysecond to determine how engaged youare. The c

This scenario may sound like sciencefiction, but *facial recognition technology*like this is actually being used in a schoolin China. It ca

GILLES SABRIE/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX (STREET); SHUTTERSTOCK.COM (CAMERA)
KEEPING TABS: The Chinese government is investing billions of dollars in facial ID tech to monitor its citizens.

Right now, schools in the U.S. aren't usingthis kind of technology to keep tabs onstudents' behavior. And it may never beused for tha in cameras that identify visitors, tout facial recognition as an added safetyfeature.

Some people are embracing this high-

tech trend. But it's raising red flags for others. They believe facial recognition, which is often used without individuals' knowledge, co

> Gender Shades
>
> Watch a video about biases in facial recognition algorithms.

HELPFUL TOOL?

Facial recognition is just one of many types of technology today that utilize *biometrics* to identify people. Biometrics are measurements

Anil Jain is a computer scientist and biometrics expert at Michigan State University. He investigates how facial recognition technology

"It can do a comparison a million times a second," says Jain. Some experts think the technology could be used in a similar way to help s

Another advantage of the technology, some say, is to simplify security screenings in high-

traffic places. For instance, travelers no longer have to show their passports multiple times at the Delta Air Lines international terminal

CAROLYN THOMPSON/AP PHOTO

SAFER AT SCHOOL? Facial recognition systems may become a new security tool at some U.S. schools.

SCANNED AT SCHOOL

In the wake of several deadly shootings at schools in the U.S., some educational institutions are interested in using facial recognition to
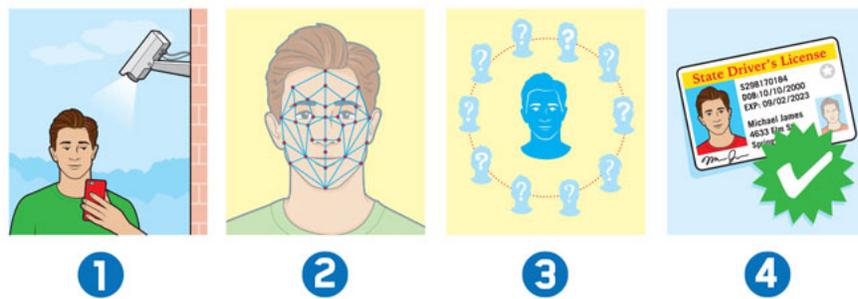
Critics, though, say there's no evidence this technology makes schools safer. Groups that work to protect basic human rights, like priva

"I'm worried about how schools are conditioning young people to expect that everything they do is going to be monitored and tracked b

43 STATES USE FACIAL ID TO SPOT SUSPECTED CRIMINALS

Usingfacialrecognition to assess student behavior isanother point of controversy. Outside ofChina, this technology has mainly beenuse

Some watchdog groups, though, arecritical of facial recognition programsthat attempt to read how people arefeeling based on their exp

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HOW FACIALRECOGNITION WORKS

Half of all Americans have theirimages, such as a driver's licensephoto, stored on at least one facialrecognition database searc

KATE FRANCIS

1 **CAPTURING:** A cameracollects an image of anunknown person's face.

2

EXTRACTING: Softwareidentifies facial features inthe image and defines them as aset of values. These data pointsmake up the p

3

COMPARING: The facialprofile is compared withthose of known faces, which cannumber in the tens of millions, stored in a datab

4

MATCHING: The softwaredecides whether the originalimage likely matches any picturein the database. If it does, theperson may

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SKEWED SYSTEM

Another problem with facial recognitionis how often it makes errors. Thetechnology is far more accurate atrecognizing people than it

but not everyone. It has a harder timecorrectly identifying women of color andsometimes fails to notice them at all. Researchers at the

These issues exist because all people—including facial recognition softwaredevelopers—

have unconscious *biases*, oringrained stereotypes, that affect theirbehavior, according to MeredithBroussard, an *artificial intelligence*

—a computer's ability toperform tasks normally associated withhuman intelligence—

to learn to recognizefaces. But the databases of images usedby the software have typically containedmore white people than those of

"People who created this didn't notice, because they were mostly white men," Broussard says.

One way to improve the situation is tomake the teams working on facialrecognition software more diverse. Untilthat happens, Brouss

world consequences, such as leadingpolice to pursue the wrong suspects ormistakenly arrest someone who'sinnocent.

BILL O'LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY IMAGES
FORGET YOUR TICKET: At Dulles airport in Virginia, passengers get their faces scanned—not their boarding passes.

SURVEILLANCE STATE?

Civil liberties groups have stronglyopposed the use of facial recognition bylaw enforcement agencies, as well as inplaces like schools

—acountry that closely monitors its citizens.

That's already happening in China. Itsgovernment uses facial recognitioncameras to create a giant surveillancenetwork that not only c

400 MILLION PEOPLE'S IMAGES ARE IN FBI DATABASES

In theU.S., somepolicedepartments also tested facialrecognition to gather information aboutpeople on the streets. They claim it's toide

Being watched all the time can causepeople to be fearful, says Jeramie D.Scott, a senior lawyer at the ElectronicPrivacy Information C

"Being anonymous allows freedom ofthought," says Scott.

"It lets you notworry about every single thing you dobeing scrutinized by an authority figure."

FINGERPRINTS ANDBEYOND

Facial recognition is just one way biometrics can be used to identify people. Here are five other unique physical characteristics

COURTESY OF SIMPLY GUM

FINGERPRINTS: Each person has his or her own pattern of ridges on the skin of each fingertip. They can be used to unlock some el

IRIS RECOGNITION: Each person's *irises*, or colored parts of the eye, contain intricate structures. Up-close images of these details can act as a form of identification.

COURTESY OF SIMPLY GUM

COURTESY OF SIMPLY GUM

HAND GEOMETRY: Measurements of the hand, like the lengths of fingers, are often used to allow students or workers access to facili

COURTESY OF SIMPLY GUM

EAR SHAPE: A computer program scans the curves and folds of the ear. The result could be useful in identifying a person from a profi
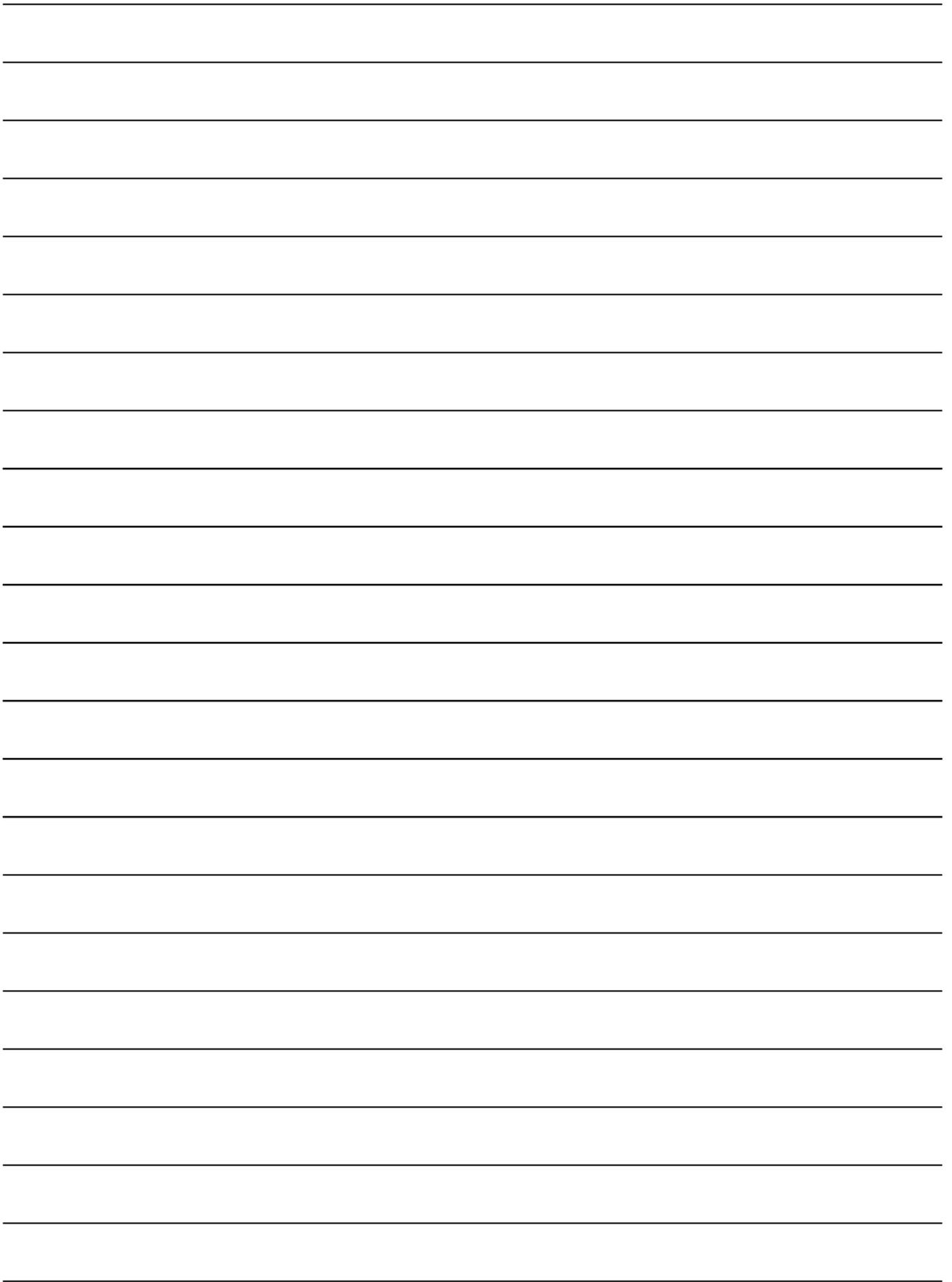

COURTESY OF SIMPLY GUM

VOICE IDENTIFICATION: The unique sounds of a person's voice can authorize a speaker to access a secure system, like a bank acc

As facial recognition becomes morewidely used, many people want to ensurethe technology won't be abused. They'recalling on lawm

Meredith Broussard, the artificialintelligence expert, believes the facialrecognition debate is part of a largerdiscussion. She says peop "Educate yourselves abouttechnology so that you can empoweryourselves to create the kind of worldthat you want to live in."

WEIGHING THE EVIDENCE

What is your view on facialrecognition? Use evidence fromthe text to construct an argumentfor or against the technology. Use

1 Do you think facialrecognition technology ismore helpful or harmful tosociety?

2 What rules, if any, would youput in place to regulate theuse of facial recognitiontechnology?

3 How do you feel aboutcameras scanning your face inschool, at the airport, at a concert, or in other public spaces?

Magazine Article Summary

Journal Title: _____

Article Name: _____   Page #'s:_____

Summary: Write a quick summary about what you read in the article. What did you find interesting? Did you learn anything new from the article? Is there anything that you didn't like about it?

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Journal

This week's journal entry is the following questions:

1. What do you miss most about your life before the Pandemic? Are there moments of "normal" that you feel yourself wanting? Is there anything from life a few months ago that you took for granted?

2. What are your favorite games? Board games, video games, or games on your phone. What games are you turning to for fun?

3. How can you tell a story about your life right now through a few simple numbers? Number of times you opened the refrigerator today? TikTok videos watched? Different outfits worn this week? Show us what your day or week looks like right now.

Pick 1, 2, or 3 and answer all the questions in your journal.

Dear Journal,

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