



Learning to Breathe:

One of the most difficult aspects of learning to sing is attempting to absorb and internalize every single lesson learned. Switching from a habit of throat breathing to diaphragm breathing has been the most challenging. It *seems* easy. You already know how to breathe; how hard can it be, right? It's hard. You only use your diaphragm to cough and sneeze. If you want to sing, you have to learn how to use this idle muscle to your advantage. Moreover, without suitable breathing technique, you can't focus on the other technicalities. Over the summer, I would practice and practice, but it felt like I wasn't getting anywhere. Almost every lesson, my instructor told me I wasn't breathing correctly. I would always get frustrated with myself when I wasn't able to see the progress I wanted to. I know I have a tendency to focus more on short term progress, than the long term. As my instructor told me, I'm probably not going to be able to see improvement overnight; however, the lessons I learn will last me a lifetime of healthy singing.

Both writing and singing are processes. I've had to refine both to optimize my current abilities. This takes a considerable amount of time. When bad habits are formed, they are especially difficult to get rid of. I think in the past, I tried to force out my essays in a few short sittings, which simply does not work for me. Under these circumstances, I just wasn't able to tap into the skills needed for advanced analysis of literature, and my bad habits only seemed to flourish. Like singing, skills in writing take just as much attention and practice. I feel like this semester has forced me to overcome my bad habits. To really improve my writing, I had to start early, beyond the formal essay writing and weeks before the due date. The informal bullet-point list allows me to communicate and document my initial ideas, without the pressure of a due date.

Ideas/Outline

Reevaluation of humanity

- Do the similar traits of humans and intelligent machine make them the same? Should we include them in the category of human being? Confusion- don't know what to define them as, shouldn't enslave them
- Wall-E
 - All robots are enslaved, forced to do the human's manual labor
- *Her*
 - Previous OS similar to Siri, texts people back, checks weather, etc.
 - Samantha can do this too
 - Initially Theodore asks her for help with sorting his emails, organizing
 - AIs should be treated as human equals, can have a relationship with them
 - While being intimate, the screen goes black- equal, can only hear voices
- *Ex Machina*
 - Kyoko is a servant- cleans, dances
 - Want to sympathize with Ava and previous AIs



- Ava merging with the rest of humanity
- Ex Machina's tagline is "there is nothing more"
 - Ava and Caleb mimicked frames- equality
 - Mary and black and white room metaphor
- I, Robot
 - Can live in harmony with more aware robots
 - "Why is it that when some robots are left in darkness, they will seek out the light?"
 - Old robots in the storage
 - Sympathy
 - "Why is it that when robots are stored in an empty space, they will group together rather than stand alone?"
 - Sonny has a human face
 - Sonny's dream
 - Dreaming is a human function

The bullet list is where I compiled all of my thoughts, regardless of which I would actually use them. I collected quotes and other ideas, so I wouldn't forget them later on. After my second paper especially, I became aware of my habit of not using enough evidence. In this list for my third paper, I tried my best to pull as many direct references as possible, so I would not be lacking. Originally, I sorted my main body claims into just three body paragraphs. However, I realized I was biting off a bit more than I could chew when I actually sat down to write it. As I learned, these ideas, though related, were differing points and should be sorted into separate paragraphs.

Draft 1

Artificial Intelligence is also shown as equal to humanity in many ways. Past the surface level, literature depicts technology as one in the same. In *Ex Machina*, Caleb and Ava are shown mimicking body language in multiple shots throughout their sessions. Caleb even makes the connection between them though the Mary and the black and white room metaphor. He explains that the human is when she leaves the room. Ava is compared to Mary in a short sequence. Ava becomes human once she leaves the facility. On a symbolic level, she is no different from Caleb as he enters the facility. In scenes where Samantha and Theodore are intimate, the screen goes dark, forcing the audience to focus on their voices, which equates the two individuals.

My first draft is where I try to articulate my ideas into fully formed sentences. The evidence is lacking, and I don't incorporate anything too specific, which weakens the claim. My main goal in this draft was merely to include at least one quote, and a basic analysis.

Draft 2



*Technology is shown in such a way that suggests this advanced artificial intelligence should be included into the definition of humanity. Often, the two, though their differences apparent, are depicted as similar through films' nuances. Caleb in *Ex Machina* mentions the concept of Mary's Room, a philosophical thought experiment to determine an AI from a human. Mary is a talented scientist who specializes in color, but spends her life confined to a black and white room.* If Mary is released from the room and experiences what it is like to "feel" color, she is human. Color symbolism through the film tells the same narrative. Ava's original body is comprised of very neutral colors: black, and silver, with hints of blue. Ava's room shares the same sense of simplicity. When Ava dresses herself, however, she chooses floral, colored patterns complimented with blue, red, and white. As Ava leaves the facility, shades of green, blue, and white surround her in the natural world, as she transforms into a human. In scenes where Samantha and Theodore are intimate, the screen goes dark, forcing the audience to focus on their voices, which equates the two individuals. * (Need to mention *I, Robot* and Sonny's dream)

In this draft, I made an effort to explicate a bit more and attempted to formalize the paragraph. I provided a brief analysis of color symbolism, highlighted in purple text, which strengthened my argument. The most notable difference may be the shift in tone. However, it was still lacking in sufficient substance and evidence. I inserted asterisks to bring attention to certain sentences which lacked effectiveness or needed expansion.

Final

While there is no singular solution to this issue, literature portrays technology in such a way that suggests advanced artificial intelligence should be included into this conversation. Often the two, though their differences apparent, are depicted similarly through films' nuances. Caleb in *Ex Machina* mentions the concept of Mary's Room, a philosophical thought experiment to determine an AI from a human. Mary is a talented scientist who specializes in color, but spends her life confined to a black and white room. If Mary is released from the room and experiences what it is like to "feel" color, she is human. As Caleb states "The computer is Mary in the black and white room. The human is when she walks out." Color symbolism through the film tells the same narrative. Ava's original body is comprised



of very neutral colors: black, and silver, with hints of blue. Ava's room shares the same sense of simplicity. When Ava dresses herself, however, she chooses floral, colored patterns complimented with blue, red, and white. As Ava leaves the facility, shades of green, blue, and white surround her in the natural world as she transforms into a human. [In the same session where Caleb makes the comparison between Ava and Mary, their body language and statures are almost exactly alike in multiple shots.](#) In scenes where Samantha and Theodore are intimate, the screen goes dark, forcing the audience to focus on their voices, which equates the two individuals. [Sonny initially assumes the "man on the hill" who comes to free the robots in his dreams is Spooner, as he is a human. In the last sequence of the film, it is Sonny who fulfills his own dream and becomes the "man on the hill".](#)

To finish, I managed to clear up some awkward phrases and expand on a few of the examples I had illustrated. It is during this draft that I read my paragraph aloud. I didn't make any major changes, other than ensuring my points were clear and understandable to my audience. By spreading my work out over several drafts, I was able to focus on many of my downfalls, without being overwhelmed or pressed for time.