



Task 1

Tipp

Beim Operator **“outline“** ist es wichtig, dass du dich so kurz wie möglich fasst, also die **wichtigsten Punkte** umreißt.

Außerdem ist wichtig, dass du **keine Zitate** verwendest, sondern alles in deinen eigenen Worten beschreibst.

Bevor du mit dem Verfassen des eigentlichen Texts beginnst, empfiehlt es sich, den **Text mehrmals zu lesen** und alle Informationen über die Technologie **“Surrogates“** und ihren Einfluss auf die heutige Gesellschaft zu **markieren** beziehungsweise zu notieren.

The excerpt from the article **“The Science of ‘Surrogates’“** by Alan Boyle deals with a new technology inspired by Bruce Willis’ latest action movie.

This technology is characterised by robots which replace human living and human’s everyday life - work, friendships and even intimate feelings in a relationship are taken by the robot (II. 2f.). The core of the invention is that the owner of the surrogate controls the robot and senses everything it feels and does. Moreover, the people can choose which type of surrogates they want to have and which appearance the robot should represent. So everybody has unlimited opportunities to be whoever he or she wants to be - a model, a sports person or just a younger looking type (I. 5).

The impact of surrogates on society nowadays appears in many technical issues. With increasing frequency, work is done by machines, which are always being developed further (II. 20f.), and no longer by humans. These machines will soon look like human beings and not like machines anymore (I. 9). Take for example Japan where humanly looking robots are developed to serve older people (I. 25).

But the **“Second Life“** (I. 28) illustrated in the movie has already affected our ordinary lives. Social networks where personal contacts are shared of a multiplicity of people in our society or online worlds where virtual sexual intercourse takes place (II. 29ff.) demonstrate that. Since time and new inventions run fast machines may soon be even more intelligent **“than natural-born humans“** (I. 38).

Task 2

Tipp

Der Operator **“analyze“** geht etwas **mehr ins Detail** als **“outline“**.

Gehe bei der Analyse eines Posters auf wichtige Details ein und erkenne und interpretiere seine Kernaussagen. Anschließend sollst du auf die Aspekte eingehen, die **sowohl im Poster als auch im Text** thematisiert werden. Achte darauf, dass Zitate nicht den Großteil des Textes ausmachen, sondern dass du den Text in deinen eigenen Worten formulierst.

►► Poster 1

Film poster 1 advertising the film **“Surrogates“** with Bruce Willis as chief character was published on the internet March 1, 2013.

The focus of attention is on the upper part of Bruce Willis’ body, on his name and on the



title of the film. He is wearing a black suit and a white shirt. In the background, you can see a futuristic looking tube in metallic colours. On top, there are the words "How do you save humanity when the only thing that's real is you?".

On the bottom of the poster, you can see some general information about the movie and above, there are four completely identically looking men who are stored in some kind of packing. Although the men are robots they look very humanly. This aspect is mentioned in an excerpt from the article "The Science of 'Surrogates'" by Alan Boyle, too. He brings up James Canton who states how fast technology will improve and lead to a world similar to the one in "Surrogates" (II. 20ff.). Moreover, Canton says that soon robots will even look like humans (I. 10).

Since more and more people will be replaced by machines in the future (I. 20) robots are going to become ordinary in our lives. In Japan for instance robots are created to serve older people.

The metallic tube in the poster indicates these futuristic changes.

Looking at the headwords "How do you save humanity when the only thing that's real is you?" the message of both the poster and the excerpt becomes obvious – everything is automated and needs to be under control in the future. We should not overdo the use of machines and robots but live our lives as human beings self-dependent and autonomous.

►► Poster 2

Poster 2 is a movie poster which advertises the movie "Surrogates" from 2009 with Bruce Willis as chief character published in 2013 on the internet.

Bruce Willis in the centre of the poster and the title below catch the eye of the spectator. Underneath, there is some general information about the movie. Willis is painted hugely in comparison to the background dressed in a black suit with a white shirt. On his right cheek he has some scratches. In the right-hand corner you see the question "How do you save humanity when the only thing that's real is you?".

The background shows futuristic houses and an empty street. On the walls of the houses there are billboards. The billboard on the right shows a man-made woman and above her the words "Perfection. A brand new you.". On the left you can see a man-made man and above him the words "Perfection." The waists of these persons are artificially. In the sky, there are three helicopters with searchlights.

As mentioned in "The Science of 'Surrogates'" by Alan Boyle, life takes place behind "closed doors" (II.1f.) since you can see no one except for Willis in the street. The helicopters with searchlights emphasize the emptiness.

What is more, the word "perfection" and the perfect looking people on the billboards with artificial waists represent surrogates. People can create them demonstrating any kind of appearance they want to (I. 4). Since surrogates look exactly like human beings it is almost impossible to distinguish between robots and real humans. This is underlined by the helicopter's searchlights, too. As well as the poster, the text also mentions that machines will more and more look like humans in the future (I. 10).

The core of the poster is the question "How do you save humanity when the only thing that's real is you?". Bruce Willis in the middle of the poster represents exactly this "only real thing".

Humanity is also discussed in Boyle's text. More and more people and procedures are replaced and will be replaced by machines and robots. Since technology advances so fast "Surrogates" gives a good impression how life in the future could look like (I. 20, "a near future vision").



Task 3

3.1

Tipp

“**Comment on**“ beauftragt dich damit, deine **Meinung** darzustellen. Wäge Vorteile und Risiken ab und berufe dich hierbei sowohl auf Aspekte aus dem Text als auch auf deine persönlichen Kenntnisse.

Verwende das Zitat als Einleitung und steige so in die vorgegebene Thematik ein.

The quote “in this wired-up world, you can be anybody you want to be through your surrogate [...]“ (ll. 3f.) in the text “The Science of ‘Surrogates’“ by Alan Boyle expresses one of the major advantages of fake identities in virtual realities. As explained in the article you can be whoever you want to be: for instance a supermodel, an athlete – you can even decide if you want your surrogate to be male or female.

You can control your robot and it can replace you in everyday live – through the surrogate you can experience all the feelings it senses without leaving your house (l. 2 ff.).

Another benefit that derives from the surrogate technology and that is already in use is that robots can help the aging population of especially industrial countries. Sociable robots could assist elderly people in day-to-day life, for example by bringing them drinks or medicine (l. 25). Also, one of the core topics of the surrogate technology is the loss of memory due to Alzheimer’s. The technology could help people recapture information by “cloud-computing and wetware implants“ (l. 44 f.) way before there is medication to cancel out memory loss. Moreover, those surrogates can also function as an expansion of human abilities, for instance they are used by the military to defuse bombs or search for mines (l. 27).

While this progressive technology brings several advantages with it, it also entails some risks.

Since the robots can take any random shape, people could lose track of who they are dealing with.

Also, the use of surrogates can change the standard of “authenticity and humanness“ (l. 51). This technology could alter the cooperation of human beings to the effect that appearances in person and one-to-one-talks are thought of as obsolete. That trend can result in an isolation from each other.

Robots will never be able to sense feelings themselves. They can pretend to be humans but they will always stay machines which are not capable of emotions. Therefore, they can never fully replace a human being.

You can see that those fake identities in virtual realities bring along advantages as well as risks. It is important to weigh up the pros and cons and to call this progress into question.



3.2

Tipp

Der Operator **“compare“** gibt vor, dass du sowohl auf **Unterschiede**, als auch auf **Gemeinsamkeiten** zwischen **“Surrogates“** und einem anderen Film eingehen sollst, in dem sich die Persönlichkeit der Menschen ebenfalls durch eine Technologie verändert. Gehe auch darauf ein, wie die Charaktere jeweils mit den Veränderungen umgehen.

The idea of robots which replace humans is implemented not only in the action movie **“Surrogates“** but also in the animated movie **“WALL-E“**.

Both movies take place in the future and deal with the futuristic living of humans. In **“Surrogates“**, people own personal robots – individually designed humanly looking machines – which live their lives. Through them, the owners can be everything they like to be and even sense everything the robot feels and does. These surrogates also called androids take the everyday life of humans so that they do not even have to go outside - they can control the androids easily from home and interact just through their **“cyber-substitutes“** (l.2).

“WALL-E“ on the contrary is not a live action film but it also deals with the way of life of people in the future. It is set in 2805, when planet earth is not habitable anymore and humans have been resettled in new living quarters – more precisely in big spaceships. Technology has expanded to an unimaginable extent. People move through automatic chairs which bring them anywhere they need to go. They are entertained continuously through monitors and additionally, at the push of a button, they can order food and drinks which is then brought to them immediately. Even when they fall out of their chairs they are put back in their seats by machines. As a consequence of the great automation, people have become very fat and very familiar to the new living conditions. They do not question the whole technological process but keep up with the convenience not to care about anything.

In the end, people finally recognize that life slips from their hands and that it is high time to take action again so that they establish themselves and finally take control of their lives. To put it together, in **“Surrogates“** living is replaced by robots so that people take part in society just through them. In **“WALL-E“** humans are controlled and managed by a system and within by robots.

What both movies have in common is the fact that they want to indicate near future dimensions. If we do not pay attention to the technological level and future development, especially to the fast process of automation, scenarios similar to the ones in the movies could be the consequence.

Through provocative and meanwhile entertaining illustration of future dimensions both movies succeed in giving the audience something to think about.



3.3

Tipp

Beim Schreiben eines Artikels ist es wichtig, die **Meinung**, die du hier vertrittst, ausführlich zu belegen. Gehe auf das Potenzial und die Risiken von "Surrogates" ein, indem du sowohl **Argumente aus dem Text** als auch **eigene Aspekte** anführst.

Hi everybody,

on the weekend I watched the action movie "Surrogates" with Bruce Willis. For those of you who don't know it I will sum it up shortly.

The movie is set in the near future when people own individually humanly looking robots which live their owner's lives. That way humans can be whatever they like to be and feel everything the robot feels and does. Moreover, they don't even need to leave the house since the robots can be controlled easily from home.

In short, humans don't really take part in society anymore but are blinded by an apparently more comfortable and hands-off world.

That's exactly what I want to point out here. Of course, the movie is provocative and very futuristic though its core is close to reality and considerable. Our lives are not fully controlled by robots but anyway, we are dependent – dependent on a world full of technology where automation and constant development take place.

Let's take Japan as an example. There, robots were created to serve older people who cannot manage their ordinary lives alone very well. Isn't that kind of a surrogate? A very helpful one actually.

And doesn't it sound awesome to create an appearance you have always wanted to represent? Well, I guess in a few years technics will make such robots possible. Sitting at home and playing real life like a computer game probably doesn't sound so bad for some people. But have you considered the consequences and risks yet? If everybody just communicates and actually lives through a robot what will happen to personal contacts? Friendships, relationships, family meetings, going out for a walk - everything will be accomplished by a machine. That's not how I want my life to look like. I want to be the one who acts and who is living the life.

Maybe you ask yourself why I exaggerate this topic here, but do I really do that? What about computer games? Far too many kids play computer games in which they need to create their own worlds and amid these worlds they forget about "real life" or aren't even interested in meeting friends or doing other things except for playing with their cyber-friends or cyber-creatures.

Do you need a more fundamental example which probably concerns all of us? Facebook, Twitter or other online networks have become a part of our lives long ago. Meeting friends there, exchanging interests, discussing problems and posting activities - there are unlimited possibilities to hang out in the internet and in social networks all day. Hence it's not uncommon to hear about people who really "live" in virtual worlds.

Such a virtual world is created also in "Surrogates". And here the risks of these modern and maybe near-future inventions become obvious even more. It won't be easy to distinguish between necessary inventions such as serving robots for elderly people and inventions which lead us to a hands-off world.

It was my intention to make you realize that futuristic films like "Surrogates" describe not just exaggerated scenarios in the future. The message of especially this movie is clear – we



need to be careful to what extent we let automated technics influence or even control us and our lives.

Best,
Madleen Mürdel