

Good morning principal, vice principal, assistant principals, teachers and fellow students. Today I am going to talk about ethics in technology. For example, if you study Biology, you must have had an idea about gene engineering. Despite the fact that this technology is a prominent breakthrough in the science industry, who can genuinely know why and how gene editing breaks our moral values? Science tells us that we have the ability to do so, while ethics tells us whether we should do it or not.

Let's start with genetically modified food, which is abbreviated as GM food. Most scientists claim that GM food is safe to eat and harmless to our health, but imagine some food such as genetically modified chickens, we create a kind of chickens which is rich in meat and we reduce its bones in order to increase the yield of chicken meat and reduce the energy loss during production. Will the chicken still have its own ability to live? Of course not! It is because the original organs are no longer functional after being edited by humans. Not only can such a genetically modified creature not be defined, but more vitally the boundaries between natural species are violated. We say this tampers with the god's plan. That means the world is no longer natural.

Apart from GM food, another technology which is also controversial is the artificial intelligence, which is abbreviated as AI. On one hand, AI can work more mechanically than humans, for example, self-driving cars. On the other hand, AI can be a threat to human dignity. If AI is further advanced, it can become enormously more powerful and smarter than humans and we would not be able to stop it from achieving its own goals. In addition, if AI is developed to have emotions, the results can be devastating. Humans will be useless forever because everything can be replaced by AI. As a result, humans will be replaced by AI and humans will face extinction. Thus, a computer scientist Joseph Weizenbaum once argued that AI technology should not be used to replace people in positions that require respect and care such as therapists and judges. We can see how catastrophic the results can be if we don't use AI properly.

To conclude, technology can be a double-edged blade. For the sake of the future of technology, scientists will put their all-out effort to enhance this kind of technology. Nevertheless, ethics must be considered the first priority when introducing new technology. Scientists should put a joint effort to adhere to the ethics of technology and it is hoped that technology will bring us convenience but not overdependence.

Thank you.