Assignment Title: AI Time Travelers – A Roleplay Symposium on AI's Future

Based on the TED Talk: "What History Can Tell Us About the Future of Artificial Intelligence" by Jonathan Penn

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Overview:
Students will work in small groups to create and perform a simulated panel discussion or symposium. Each member will represent a historical figure, a current-day expert, or a fictional future character. The discussion will explore and debate the implications of AI, using insights from the TED Talk and drawing from historical parallels. Soft skills like empathy, negotiation, collaboration, and communication will be central to the task.

Learning Objectives:

- Interpret and apply key ideas from the TED Talk
- Use collaboration, empathy, and oral communication effectively
- Think critically about the ethical, historical, and future impacts of AI
- Synthesize historical knowledge with speculative thinking

Assignment Steps:

1. **Watch & Discuss the TED Talk**
   Reflect on key themes such as:
   - Lessons from history
   - Technological revolutions and societal responses
   - Ethical considerations of AI development
2. **Assign Roles**
   Each student selects or is assigned a role:
   - A historical figure from a time of major technological change (e.g., during the Industrial Revolution)
   - A present-day AI researcher, ethicist, or policymaker
   - A fictional character from a speculative future scenario (e.g., AI-integrated society, post-AI-collapse world)
3. **Research & Prepare**
   Students research their character and prepare key speaking points:
   - What would this person think about AI?
   - What historical lessons, ethical considerations, or predictions would they share?

4. **Symposium Performance**
    In groups, students perform a 5–10 minute panel discussion or mock debate in character. Discussion prompts may include:
    -   What does history teach us about AI today?
    -   What should we be cautious of?
    -   What opportunities can we embrace?
5. **Reflection Piece**
    After the performance, each student writes a short reflection addressing:
    -   What they learned from the discussion
    -   How their understanding of AI and history deepened
    -   How soft skills helped them explore the topic

Assessment Criteria:

-   Understanding and application of the TED Talk
-   Creativity and accuracy in character portrayal
-   Effective use of soft skills (empathy, collaboration, communication)
-   Critical thinking and insight into AI's future
-   Clarity and thoughtfulness in the written reflection