

GRADES 6-12

# Facing Off with Facial Recognition

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## Essential Question

What are the benefits and risks of  
*facial recognition?*



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1

Understand what *facial recognition* is.

2

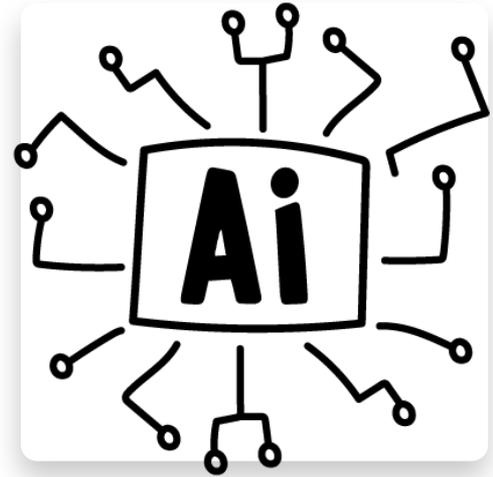
Consider the *benefits* and *risks* of facial recognition.



## WARM-UP POLL

Do you have (or know someone who has) a device that you can unlock with your face?

What type of device is it?





EXPLAIN

Unlocking devices with your face is an example of a type of *artificial intelligence* technology called *facial recognition*.



# Key Vocabulary

## Artificial Intelligence

a computer program that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence



# Key Vocabulary

## Facial Recognition

a type of AI technology that can use a digital image of a face to identify a person



## EXPLAIN

Facial recognition is used in a lot of different apps and tools, but like with any technology, there are both *benefits* and *risks* to using it. The risks we think about most are related to our *privacy*.



# Key Vocabulary

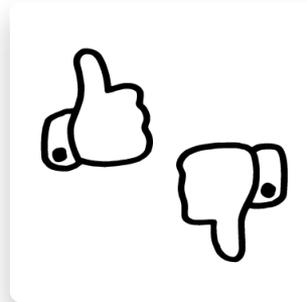
## Privacy

protection from being observed or tracked by others, including the government, companies, the public, individuals, or groups



REFLECT

# What are some of the benefits or risks of facial recognition?





## REFLECT

Benefits of facial recognition	Privacy risks of facial recognition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● You can use it for fun things like Snapchat or Instagram filters.</li><li>● It makes unlocking your phone convenient.</li><li>● It could be a useful tool to help protect people.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● It could be used against people who disagree with the government or a company.</li><li>● Companies can use it for targeted advertising.</li><li>● A company or the government could use it to follow you anywhere you go.</li></ul>



## EXPLAIN

Balancing the benefits and potential risks of new technologies like facial recognition can be tricky. Whether a technology is useful or risky depends on a few things: who is using it, how it is being used, why it is being used, and how their privacy is affected by it.



## LUNCH LINES DILEMMA

Mr. Davis is the principal of Fairview High School, one of the biggest schools in the state. At the beginning of the year, Mr. Davis sent a survey to learn about the things that students wanted to improve about school. Most students said they wanted to make the lunch lines move more quickly so that everyone could eat without having to rush to make it to their next class. Right now, they have to stand in line to get their lunch, and then stand in another line to scan their ID so the school can keep track of everything.

While looking for solutions to the issue of lunch lines, Mr. Davis received a pitch from a facial recognition company. The company said it could create a system that would scan students' faces while they got their lunch. That way, students wouldn't have to wait in a second line to get their ID scanned.



TAKE A STAND

**Do you think Mr. Davis should get the facial recognition technology to improve the lunch lines?**





TAKE A STAND

**What do you think?  
Explain your perspective.**





TAKE A STAND

Where do your  
classmates stand?





TAKE A STAND

## What had you *not* considered that other people brought up?

Maybe you changed your mind, maybe you didn't—that's OK! How has your thinking shifted after hearing your classmates' perspectives, even if you haven't changed your mind?





TAKE A STAND

**Look beyond this specific case.**

How does this dilemma remind you of other situations we've explored in class, or that you've seen, heard about, or experienced?





## EXPLAIN

The goal of this activity wasn't to lead us to a "right" answer. Instead, to determine whether facial recognition is useful or risky, we're learning to look at the **context**: *who* is using it, *how* it is being used, *why* it is being used, and *how people's privacy is affected by it*.



## CLOSING REFLECTION

Facial recognition is just one example of a technology that has both benefits and risks. Remember that as new AI tools are created or get added to apps, games, or sites that you use, it's important to *think critically* about the *benefits* and *risks* before using them.

WE CAN THRIVE IN A  
DIGITAL WORLD.