

# Close Reading Exercise #1: Two Passages

## Instructions:

First, read Passage A several times. On your first pass, **underline** emotionally charged words. On your second pass, **circle** qualifiers (hedges). Place a **star** [★] where you feel the author's tone shifts.

We'll discuss Passage A, and then we'll take a look at Passage B after that.

## Passage A

The rapid integration of Large Language Models into our creative industries is nothing short of an existential earthquake. While some might suggest that these tools are merely sophisticated autocorrect engines, we are inevitably hurtling toward a reality where the human spark is eclipsed by a cold, algorithmic mimicry. It is somewhat concerning that we have surrendered our cultural keys to Silicon Valley so readily. We are told these models "democratize" art, yet they arguably strip the soul from the canvas, leaving behind a hollow, albeit polished, imitation. Perhaps we are not witnessing the dawn of a new era, but rather the twilight of authentic human expression. If we do not act now, the consequences will be catastrophic, fundamentally erasing the very essence of what it means to create.

## **Passage B**

The emergence of Large Language Models represents a breathtaking dawn for human creativity, potentially acting as a universal solvent for the "blank page" syndrome that haunts so many. While these systems are admittedly in their infancy, they arguably offer a democratizing force unlike anything seen since the printing press. It is perhaps understandable that some feel a lingering trepidation; however, we are likely witnessing the liberation of the human mind from mundane drudgery. These tools don't merely "mimic"—they catalyze, seemingly expanding the boundaries of what a single individual can achieve. We are essentially standing at the threshold of a collaborative era where the synergy between man and machine might finally unlock our dormant potential. To resist this transition is, in many ways, to turn our backs on a more inclusive and imaginative future.