



# What is Black Mirror?

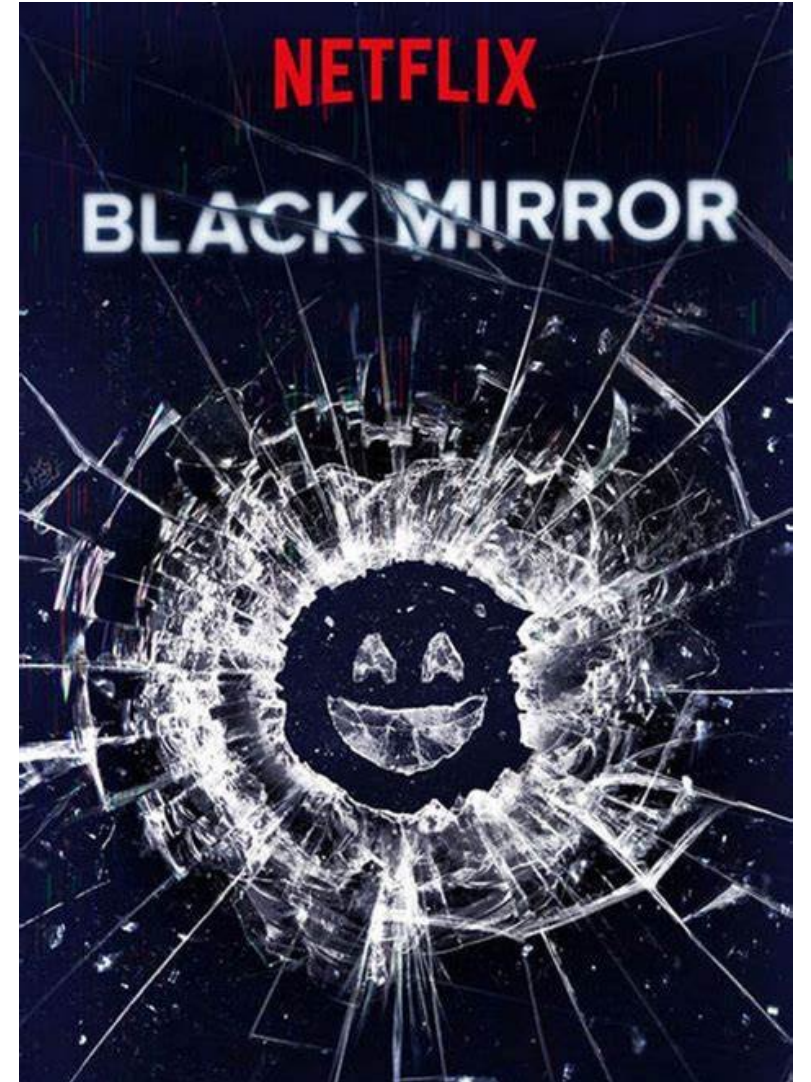
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Netflix series (currently at 5 seasons)

Explores "twisted, high-tech near-future" scenarios

Labeled as science fiction...

**But is it really?**



# Season 5 Trailer

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# Sci-Fi in real life

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Black Mirror forces us to think about the **possible consequences of new tech.**

What makes it so intriguing is the examples are **futuristic but realistic.**

**Given the landscape and evolution of tech, the stories feel *near future.***

NETFLIX ORIGINAL

# BLACK MIRROR

2019 **TV-MA** 5 Seasons

**Watch Season 5 Now**

"The Entire History of You"

In the near future, everyone has access to a memory implant that records everything humans do, see and hear.

**▶ NEXT EPISODE**

**+ MY LIST**



**Creators:** Charlie Brooker

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**EPISODES**

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**DETAILS**

# 15 Years Ago, the Military Tried to Record Whole Human Lives. It Ended Badly

Before Facebook, the military tried to make an all knowing 'cyberdiary' called LifeLog.



Replying to @kbk3n3 @Q172018 and 6 others

Lifelog and Facebook have absolutely nothing to do with one another. That a former DARPA employee worked for FB stands to reason as many alumni work in Silicon Valley after leaving the agency. Our average tenure is only 4 years.

9:40 PM · May 6, 2020

28 Retweets 120 Quote Tweets 99 Likes



GOOGLE POLICY REPORT

# Google on Glass privacy: 'If I'm recording you, I have to stare at you'

By [nateog](#) | May 16, 2013, 7:58pm EDT

<https://www.theverge.com/2013/5/16/4338418/glass-privacy-fireside-chat-google-io-2013>

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2019 TV-MA 5 Seasons

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"Nosedive"

A woman desperate to boost her social media score hits the jackpot when she's invited to a swanky wedding. But the trip doesn't go as planned.

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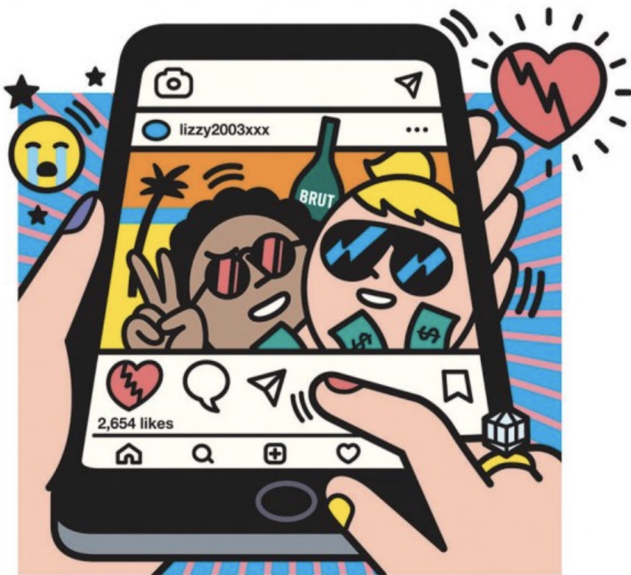
DETAILS





# L.A. Kids and Instagram Anxiety: "Social Media Is Destroying Our Lives"

9:45 AM PDT 8/18/2017 by Stephanie Chan



CURRENT AFFAIRS

# What are Our Phones Doing to Us?

Are smartphones destroying our focus, our relationships, and even our humanity?

**Thomas Moller-Nielsen**



filed 14 August 2022 in **TECH**

<https://www.currentaffairs.org/2022/08/what-are-our-phones-doing-to-us>

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/general-news/la-kids-instagram-anxiety-social-media-is-destroying-lives-1029883/>

## EU should ban AI-powered citizen scoring and mass surveillance, say experts / New recommendations have also been criticized as lacking enforceability

By **JAMES VINCENT**

Jun 26, 2019, 7:30 AM EDT | [0 Comments](#)



Artificial Intelligence Mar 4

## China's social credit system stopped millions of people from buying travel tickets



China blocked millions of would-be travelers from purchasing plane or train tickets last year as part of its “social credit” system, according to the [Associated Press](#).

**N** SERIES

# BLACK MIRROR

2019 TV-MA 5 Seasons **AD**

"Arkangel"

Worried about her daughter's safety, single mom Marie signs up for a cutting-edge device that monitors the girl's whereabouts -- and much more.

**▶ NEXT EPISODE**

**+ My List**



Creators: Charlie Brooker

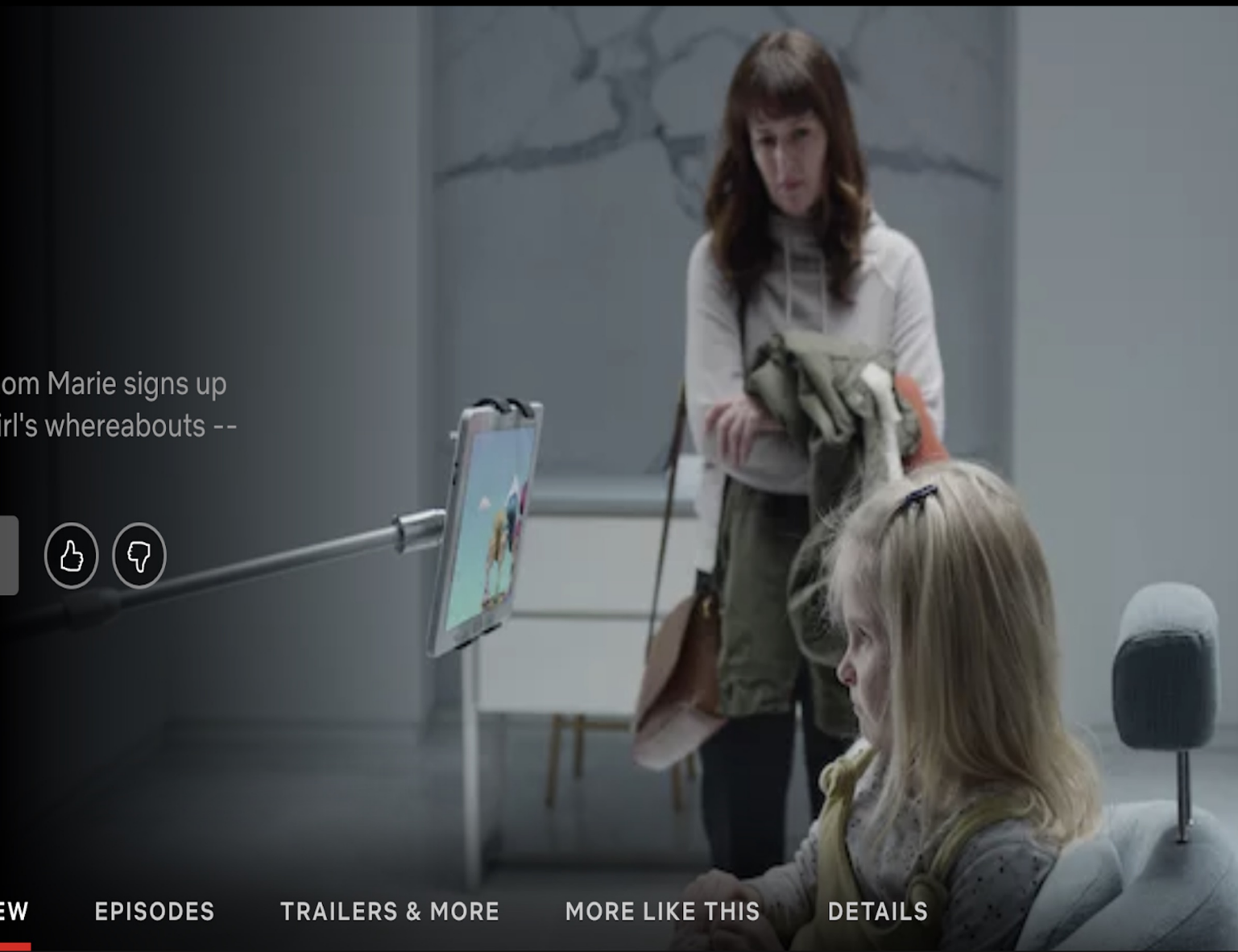
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TEEN MONITORING

# The Best Teen Monitoring Apps Every Parent Needs

© JANUARY 13, 2020    👤 ALEXANDRU TANASE

## More parents using GPS to track children but experts warn there could be consequences

By [Melanie Vujkovic](#)

Posted 3 Apr 2019, updated 3 Apr 2019

EDUCATION

## Privacy Experts Say The Trade-Offs Of Tech To Track Kids In School Aren't Worth It

August 26, 2019 · 4:22 PM ET  
Heard on All Things Considered

<https://www.familyorbit.com/blog/best-teen-monitoring-apps/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-04/digitally-tracking-kids-more-parents-use-devices/10957906>

<https://www.npr.org/2019/08/26/754485063/privacy-experts-say-the-trade-offs-of-tech-to-track-kids-in-school-arent-worth-i>

The New York Times

## Is Snooping on Teenagers Ever O.K.?



Getty Images

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/06/well/family/is-snooping-on-teenagers-ever-ok.html>

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# BLACK MIRROR

2019 TV-MA 5 Seasons

Watch Season 5 Now

"Be Right Back"

29 of 48m

After learning about a new service that lets people stay in touch with the deceased, a lonely, grieving Martha reconnects with her late lover.

▶ RESUME

+ MY LIST



Creators: Charlie Brooker

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# Digital immortality: How your life's data means a version of you could live forever

## 'When your heart stops beating, you'll keep tweeting': Controversial app that updates your Twitter feed from beyond the grave

- LivesOn analyses users' Twitter feeds to continue posting in the same style after they are dead
- Being developed by a London-based ad agency, who say 'it'll work better than a frozen head'
- It joins DeadSocial and If I Die in the market for apps offering social media services which continue after death

By [DAMIEN GAYLE](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 06:30 EDT, 20 February 2013 | **UPDATED:** 06:45 EDT, 20 February 2013



**109**  
View comments

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2018/10/18/139457/digital-version-after-death/>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2281603/When-heart-stops-beating-youll-tweeting-The-app-updates-Twitter-feed-grave.html>

# Notice a theme?

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## BLACK MIRROR

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"Be Right Back" 29 of 48m

After learning about a new service that lets people stay in touch with the deceased, a lonely, grieving Martha reconnects with her late lover.


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N SERIES

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# Who has the advantage?

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For many episodes, upper to middle class white people are the protagonists.

We know that technological harms disproportionately impact the margins.

You can see (or imagine) it in Black Mirror, but also **in real life.**



# Was it 'techno-racism'? Facial recognition bug denies Black man's passport photo

REPORT \ TECH \ ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE \

Transgender YouTubers had their videos grabbed to train facial recognition software

**Flawed data is putting people with disabilities at risk**

**Instagram apologizes after algorithm promotes harmful diet content to people with eating disorders**

A new search feature inadvertently triggered the recommendations

Entry barriers for women are amplified by AI in recruitment algorithms, study finds

BRANDS IN CULTURE

**'The situation is the same as it was last year': Black creators say TikTok's problems with race and diversity persist**

<https://thegrio.com/2019/09/23/was-it-techno-racism-facial-recognition-bug-denies-black-mans-passport-photo/>

<https://www.theverge.com/2017/8/22/16180080/transgender-youtubers-ai-facial-recognition-dataset>

<https://thenextweb.com/news/instagram-apologizes-algorithm-promotes-harmful-diet-content-eating-disorders>

<https://techcrunch.com/2021/04/19/flawed-data-is-putting-people-with-disabilities-at-risk/>

<https://phys.org/news/2020-12-entry-barriers-women-amplified-ai.html>

# The Black Mirror Writer's Room

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Today, you are all writers for Black Mirror! Each group will be writing an episode.

**Individual brainstorming** (~10 minutes)

Group formation

**Group discussion** (~30 minutes)

Break

**Story creation** (~30 minutes)

**Episode pitch** (~30 minutes)

Use the remainder of class to prepare **short presentation** for next week.

# Individual brainstorming

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Write down ideas related to a topic of interest.

## **Focus on:**

- Relevant current events or news items
- Things that currently worry you
- Where you think this issue may be headed in the future

# Example Topics

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Algorithmic Bias

Recommender Systems

Self-Driving Cars

Government surveillance

Censorship

Free speech

Internet of things

Predictive policing

Facial recognition/analysis

Social media privacy

Data privacy

Online dating

Robots/AI

Intellectual property

Online harassment

Fake news/misinformation

Job loss due to automation

The digital divide

# Group Discussion

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Discuss individual ideas.

Goal = create inspiration slide for cautionary tale

## **Focus on:**

- Deciding on one overarching topic/idea
- Finding relevant headlines/articles (if haven't already)
- Any thing else that might provide inspiration for the episode

# Story Creation

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Think about the story behind the cautionary tale.

## **Focus on:**

- Which fictional person in the future could help illustrate this caution
- The story of the protagonist

# Episode Pitch

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Time to get creative!

Your episode pitch will match the previous Black Mirror episode layouts [[template](#)]

## **Focus on:**

- A title for your episode
- Condensing story into 50-100 words (it's okay to give away the ending!)
- Finding an image that's appropriate for the story

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# BLACK MIRROR

2019 TV-MA 5 Seasons

## “Put On a Happy Face”

Plagued by an algorithmic error that crashed her social credit score, a woman becomes obsessed with looking good for the massive surveillance system that determines everything about her value to society. But when looking good becomes more important than being good, everyone around her begins to suffer.

▶ NEXT EPISODE

+ MY LIST



Image Credit: [Pexels](#) (Burst, free to use)



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# BLACK MIRROR

2019 TV-MA 5 Seasons

## “Driven by Morality”

When purchasing the newest self-driving car, a man is presented with two options. The first, a more expensive option that guarantees his safety and a fast commute, in any way, shape, or form. The second, the less expensive, slower commute, that doesn't guarantee his safety, but always keeps other vehicle passengers and pedestrians safe. After choosing the more expensive car with self protection, he hits and kills a pedestrian on his commute to work. Guilt sets in, and he wonders if he made the right decision.

▶ NEXT EPISODE

+ MY LIST



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# BLACK MIRROR

2019 TV-MA 5 Seasons

“True View”

Two women live in different worlds. The upper class has access to a wide variety of filters that alter people's appearance in the now fully augmented reality world. But the lower class can't afford access and just have to be themselves. The lower class woman is tired of being ostracized and is seeking out revenge by creating a virus that will crash the system and destroy all the filters. What happens when the rich have to face their true selves?

▶ NEXT EPISODE

+ MY LIST



# Presentation (next week)

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Each group will present their pitch.

## **Each presentation should include:**

- The names of all team members
- The episode pitch slide (from previous task)
- Examples from the news or headlines that map to the cautionary tale
- Perspectives on what a "Light Mirror" scenario might be
  - How can or could we prevent the negative consequences in your scenario?