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Two sided argumentative essay: Are robots better teachers than human beings?

As technologies have been developing, the implementation of technologies in education has been more than ever. As the age of robots approaches, many jobs are replaced by robots. There have been heated debates about whether teachers will be replaced by robots. Anthony Seldon, vice chancellor of the University of Buckingham, predicts that robots will replace teachers by 2027. This raises a question, "Teachers, should you be concerned that a robot can surpass you in teaching?"

Undeniably, robots do surpass teachers in certain aspects. First of all, the accuracy of robots is higher than human teachers. As technologies have been improved sharply in the past few decades, robots can perform certain tasks with high precision consistently, the average number of errors has decreased drastically. On the other hand, a teacher's attention and accuracy can be affected by various factors, for instance, level of exhaustion, the amount of workload, his/her emotions or work attitude, just to name a few. Students are often given tasks to be completed during the learning process; this demands fast and timely marking by teachers. The performance of students' tasks reflects the ability of students and is often an indicator for students to reflect about their learning progress. Therefore, the accuracy in marking of a teacher is crucial in students' learning progress. As mentioned, since robots can perform tasks with higher accuracy, more timely and accurate feedback can be given to students.

Moreover, robots have higher efficiency than human beings. As robots are powered by batteries, as long as its batteries don't run off, technically, robots have infinite stamina. On the contrary, the level of exhaustion of human teachers can be affected by different factors, and humans' stamina is way more limited in comparison with robots. Robots can work 24/7 while human beings can't, not to mention that robots wouldn't need days off and would never be late for work.

On the other hand, as there is a wide diversity among students' ability, to deliver tailored-made teaching requires flexibility. As robots are programmed, its flexibility is highly limited and will never be able to meet the wide diversity among students. On the other hand, a human teacher can

evaluate students' responses and performances flexibly, this gives them greater credits for being more skillful in tackling learner diversity.

The flexibility in human beings gives them the ability to take care of students' sentimental needs. A teacher's job is never just to deliver knowledge to students, a good teacher has to have the ability to interpret students' emotions. As I have mentioned, the flexibility of robots is highly limited. Imagine you are crying in a classroom, will you feel better if a robotic voice tells you to cheer up with an expressionless voice and face? Students, who are going through adolescence, the stage of physical and psychological growth and development, need sentimental support and encouragement. Besides, not being able to take care of students' emotional needs, would you ever perceive a robot as your role model or your inspiration? Would you rather have a human teacher who can take care of you when you are having a bad day, and someone who can develop a genuine friendship with you, or a robot who is limited to "comforting" you with its robotic voice?

Last but not least, a competent teacher is required to make fair judgements. Sadly, there isn't an algorithm that judges what is right and what is wrong since an action of a human is not very likely to be absolute right or absolute wrong. Robots could not understand the concept of "grey areas" while humans could. Conflicts often occurred among students, not to mention some particular students with behavioral problems. Nevertheless, to make a good judgement requires teachers to execute flexibility in understanding the past and present relations between students, as well as the cause and impacts of each individual events. In this case, human beings can make better judgements than robots.

In terms of accuracy and efficiency, robots are better than human beings. However, as humans' flexibility is not limited by algorithms, they can deliver tailored learning, sentimental support and fair judgements. Human beings are significantly better than robots in these aspects of teaching. In my opinion, these qualities are of utmost importance as a competent teacher. Therefore, I strongly believe that human beings are better teachers than robots.