Assignment: Genre and Its Purpose

1. Pre-reading:

A. Find and provide a definition for each vocabulary word below and use it correctly in a sentence.

Utopian:

Dystopian:

Entrepreneurial:

Prescient:

Aspiration:

2. During Reading:

A. In one or two full sentences summarize the main idea of this article. In addition, provide two quotes from the article that support this.

B. Give two examples of technology mentioned in the article that was written about in past science fiction that are now largely true.

3. Post-reading

A. The question, "Where might our as-yet-unfulfilled needs take us? What would it be really nice to have?" is posed and the category of relationships and the idea of relationship counselling or "training" is used as an example for an exercise in wondering what if?

Now it is your turn to start to generate some ideas about how you want things to be. Remember these are just ideas, there are no right or wrong answers.

Feeling stuck? Browse through this extensive list of categories and as you are doing so keep in mind your topic for idea generation is: What would it be really nice to have? ...and don't just think in terms of "things" could be in terms of lifestyle, relationships, abilities etc.

It might be hard at first but your idea generation will become more fluent as you go. Generate 8 "what if" phrases.

Category	What If
Example: Clothing	What if all we had to wear was a specialized suit?
Example: Internet	What if we suddenly lost access to the Internet?
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

B. Read an article about speculative fiction, and in a well-written paragraph of at least 5-7 sentences write your own description of what speculative fiction is. Include an example of a speculative narrative in written or movie form, and why it qualifies as an example based on a criterion from the article. In addition, include in your own words what the author of the article thinks that speculative fiction should try and achieve.

C. Browse a number of sources to generate possible ideas for your story.

At the end of this unit your final project will be to outline and create the beginning of a piece of speculative fiction that imagines a world that is different in some way.
Many stories in the genre of speculative fiction are written based on future trends possibilities etc. whose ideas come from real issues, trends, research etc. in the scientific world.

Browse through these three sources to find several articles that capture your interest and perhaps part or the entire concept could be included in your story. Just possibilities remember, these ideas may or may not be included in the end.

1. https://www.bbc.com/future/columns/future-now
2. https://futurism.com/latest
3. Create a search query in google: future trends in….(choose a category)

Then fill in the chart on the following page…

Find 8 articles and do the following:
1. Copy and paste the title of the article AND create a hyperlink to the URL.
2. Summarize briefly the main concept and how that might be used in a story.
Think in terms of setting, conflict, plot and character. If you get anything else you want to make note of for possibilities or further exploration add a note under "other".

Title: (provide a hyperlink)	Brief concept description:
[Why the 'post-natural' age could be strange and beautiful](#)	Topic of how genetic engineering might change nature. Could be a story about how a certain natural disaster is going to happen until something is developed to save it. Maybe genetically modified insects that eat garbage. Other: link to an interesting article about weird monsters including Frankenstein. Perhaps write about a "monster' that is created from genetic cloning.
1.	
2.	
3.	
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