Form Small Groups for Discussion

- In the first 5 minutes of class, form a small group of 3-5 people

- You will discuss based on prompts as a small group, then give a summary of your discussion to the class

Prompt 1

- What stood out to you in the readings?

- What did you particularly agree or disagree with?

- What remaining questions do you have?

- You'll have about 5 minutes to discuss with your group

- Then, decide on someone who will share your group's thoughts with the rest of the class

Prompt 2

- Consider Alan Turing's imitation game, also known as "The Turing Test"

- Suppose that a computer passes the Turing test, meaning the judge cannot determine whether the computer is a person or not

  - How should we treat this computer?

  - Should we give the computer certain rights, like we give to humans (e.g., the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights)?

- Under what circumstances should a computer be given rights? Or should computers always be considered property, not matter how they behave?

Prompt 3

- The readings discussed the judicial system's use of algorithms to inform decision making

- Under which circumstances, if any, would you support the use of algorithms to inform bail decisions?

- The Upshot article describes that: "relative to men with similar criminal histories, women are significantly less likely to commit future violent acts. Consequently, algorithms that inappropriately combine data for all defendants overstate the recidivism risk for women, which can lead to unjustly harsh detention decisions [for women]."

  - Is it unfair for an algorithm to include gender as an input attribute? Which attributes do you think an algorithm should consider, and which should be off-limits (i.e., hidden from the algorithm)?

Prompt 4

- As discussed in Blown to Bits, many AI systems rely on vast quantities of training data to make accurate predictions

- Consider an AI system designed to detect cancer in medical images (e.g., analyzing MRI images to identify lung cancer)

- Under which conditions would you allow your medical images to be used to train such an AI diagnosis system?

- Oftentimes, the more data an AI system is trained on, the more accurate its predictions will be. Would you support passage of a law that made sharing medical data the default (e.g. similar to laws making organ donation the default)? This would make more medical data available for training AI systems, increasing the accuracy of AI systems and potentially saving lives.