



# Team B - Debate 3

**Pros & Cons of Living with a Cyborg Body**

**Position: For**

# Enhanced Physical Capability & Capacity

Upgraded ability: Cyborg bodies could enhance human physical abilities beyond what is naturally possible, such as superhuman strength, speed, and endurance

- Medical augmentations are already quite accepted by society (pacemakers, prosthetics, etc. that are meant to help the disabled function in daily life)
- Non-medical augmentations would enable users to increase human capabilities (mental agility, memory, or physical strength).

Increased longevity: Some cyborg technologies could potentially extend human lifespan, allowing individuals to live longer and healthier lives

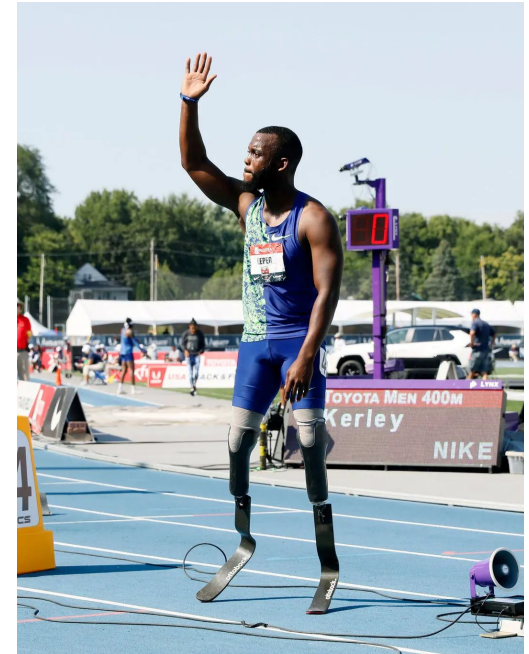
- Artificial organs, such as hearts or kidneys, could potentially replace damaged or failing organs and replace the need for organ donation
- Exoskeletons provide support to weak limbs and increase strength and endurance, reducing the risk of injury and allowing individuals to remain active and mobile for longer



# Freedom and inclusion of people with disabilities

Transmobility opens up space for considering cyborg bodies as imaginative, playful, transgressive, and mobile, rather than dominant narratives that frame disabled bodies through lenses of pity, inspiration, or fear.

- Regaining of autonomy and selfhood
- Granted increased access to resources and personal services, which is liberating and reconfigures their lives with higher integration, mitigating the effects of impairment
- The “disabled” as posthuman is a creature of an imagined inclusive, considerate and equitable future



# Improving Sensory Ability

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Not only about enhancements or updates, the idea of using cyborg augmentation to facilitate different perceptions of reality is on the horizon.

- Elements of a cyborg body, like bionic eyes, cochlear ears, and haptic implants, could provide one with enhanced sensory capabilities that could improve their ability to navigate the environment.

Our sensory sources could now be extended (not only touching, seeing, hearing, smelling, and tasting) to endless synesthetic possibilities (hearing color/feeling sound, or remote sensing).

- Cyborg artist and activist Moon Ribas has had two implants underneath her skin on the top of her feet to feel earthquakes from around the world, which informs her dance choreographies.



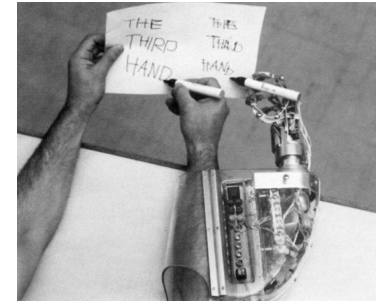
# Self & Artistic Expression

Cyborg bodies can be customized to allow for body modifications according to their desires and requirements, or those that would otherwise not be possible.

- Prosthetic limbs can be personalized with colors, patterns, textures, and even 3D printing technology to reflect an individual's personal style.
- Subdermal implants can create a 3D effect on the skin, or magnets can be implanted in the fingertips to create a sense of touch with magnetic surfaces.

Cyber-artistic endeavors have come out of using emerging technology to augment senses or feel new ones.

- The performance artist Stelarc produces pieces that often involve cybernetics, such as controlling a robotic third arm using muscle signals from his own body, and using virtual reality to simulate the experience of having multiple limbs.
- Through an antenna and chip implanted in his skull, cyborg artist Neil Harbisson can hear images and paint sounds. His device translates colors into sound frequencies that he can hear through bone conduction, allowing him to "hear" colors and "see" infrared light.



# Improved Physical Safety

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Certain cyborg modifications, such as exoskeletons or enhanced reflexes, could improve safety for workers in dangerous professions, such as construction or law enforcement.

- Cyborg bodies could be designed to resist extreme environmental hazards, such as radiation, extreme temperatures, and high-pressure environments.
- Cyborg elements could help resist occupational hazards and protect individuals working in industries such as space exploration, deep-sea diving, or nuclear power plants, who may face exposure to hazardous environments that can pose a significant risk to human health.



# Medical Benefits



From GPT: For individuals with physical disabilities or injuries, a cyborg body could provide a means of restoring lost functionality and independence.

Reducing pain: Devices such as nerve stimulators can be implanted to reduce chronic pain caused by conditions such as fibromyalgia or neuropathy.