About the Documentary
83 MINUTES | 2020 | USA | ENGLISH MANDARIN | PARTIAL SUBTITLES

Film Synopsis
MIT researcher and computer scientist Joy Buolamwini wants the US government to reconsider its use of facial recognition technology after discovering gross inaccuracies in its results—namely, racism. Buolamwini found that developer bias embedded in the algorithms, and reinforced through machine learning, made the controversial technology more likely to falsely identify people with darker skin tones. Increased clandestine use by law enforcement agencies around the globe has prompted activist organizations like Big Brother Watch UK to take action in an effort to protect citizens' rights, but many don't even realize that facial recognition technology is in use, nor understand the serious risks it presents to privacy and civil liberties. Meanwhile, the implementation of China's social credit system forecasts an end to privacy altogether. Both informative and cautionary, Coded Bias is a reminder that "big data" is not only the result of human programming, it is subject to it as well.

Before Reading Task
JUNE 1st -- Independent Work instructions **Choose 1 secondary source, from the list below, to read. Then, write a 200 word journal reflection on your chosen text BEFORE viewing.**

JOURNAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
1) What do I know about this issue?
2) What do I think about this issue?
3) What do I want to know more about?

LIST OF SECONDARY SOURCES:
1) Interview with Director --> "'Coded Bias': New Film Looks at Fight Against Racial Bias in Facial Recognition & AI Technology" (DemoncracyNow.org)
https://www.democracynow.org/2020/1/30/coded_bias_shalini_kantayya_joy_buolamwini

2) Spoken Word by Film's Subject --> "AI, Ain't I A Woman? -- Joy Buolamwini" (Youtube)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxuyfWoVV98

3) Focus on Social/Historical Influence & Significance --> "Your face mask selfies could be training the next facial recognition tool" by Alfred Ng (Cnet.com)
https://www.cnet.com/news/your-face-mask-selfies-could-be-training-the-next-facial-recognition-tool/

4) Film Review Example --> "'Coded Bias': Film Review" (Variety.com)
https://variety.com/2020/film/reviews/coded-bias-review-1203502855/

After Reading Task
Choose a different source, from the list above, to read. Then, write a 200 word journal reflection on your chosen text AFTER viewing.

SUBMIT BOTH JOURNAL REFLECTIONS BY EMAIL BEFORE JUNE 4, 2020