



**Topic I** (*engage with both quotes in your essay*)

“A fire broke out backstage in a theatre. The clown came out to warn the public; they thought it was a joke and applauded. He repeated it; the acclaim was even greater. I think that's just how the world will come to an end: to general applause from wits who believe it's a joke.”

—Søren Kierkegaard, *Either/Or: A Fragment of Life*. Part I: *Diapsalmata*, 1843.

“I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is.”

—Greta Thunberg, *speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland*, 2019.

**Topic II**

“Those who have treated of the sciences have been either empiricists or dogmatists. Empiricists, like ants, simply accumulate and use; Rationalists, like spiders, spin webs from themselves; the way of the bee is in between: it takes material from the flowers of the garden and the field; but it has the ability to convert and digest them. This is not unlike the true working of philosophy; which does not rely solely or mainly on mental power, and does not store the material provided by natural history and mechanical experiments in its memory untouched but altered and adapted in the intellect.”

—Francis Bacon, *The New Organon*, Book I, § XCV, 1620.

**Topic III**

“Progressive art can assist people to learn not only about the objective forces at work in the society in which they live, but also about the intensely social character of their interior lives. Ultimately, it can propel people toward social emancipation.”

—Angela Y. Davis, *Women, Culture & Politics. Art on the Frontline: Mandate for a People's Culture*, 1989.

**Topic IV**

“People say, oh, we need to make ethical AI. What nonsense. Humans still have the monopoly on evil. The problem is not AI. The problem is humans using new technologies to harm other humans.”

—Garry Kasparov. In: Will Knight, *Defeated Chess Champ Garry Kasparov Has Made Peace With AI*. *Wired Magazine*, 2020.