

Heading is 2 lines max.

Exceptional Student  
CS 285L 03

Simple heading with no extra space.

Weekly Write Up #1

Left aligned, black 12 point  
Times New Roman font.

Since his founding of PayPal in 1999, Elon Musk has found himself as an investor in many impactful, yet controversial companies such as SpaceX, Tesla, OpenAI, and more (Bruner, 2022). In recent news, Musk's company Neuralink has been noted to have successfully implanted one of its brain chip devices into a human-being (Hern, 2024). A large concern when it comes to Elon Musk's endeavors in the tech world is his continual displays of irresponsibility. To sum up the problem: "Musk has a long history of bold promises but a spottier record of fulfilling them" (Hern, 2024). Although Elon Musk has been involved in many controversies and has failed to deliver on some of his promises, basing the success of Neuralink's brain chips on this information would be an **ad hominem** logical fallacy, which is attacking a person's characteristics rather than their arguments (Potaszniak, Day 3). In this case, Musk's well-documented personal quirks and failings do not indicate the quality (or lack thereof) of his company's contributions to neurological health and science. Instead, to get a sufficient understanding of whether Neuralink's recent implantation qualifies as a success, we should use multiple sources to try to get an empirical, unbiased understanding of its endeavors and potentialities.

Ideas from outside sources are cited in APA format. Ideas can be paraphrased or copied, but verbatim copying requires quotation marks.

Class terms are in bold for the first use. They are explicitly defined, and that definition is explicitly applied to the current event.

By the end of the introduction, we know exactly what news event is being analyzed, and have enough background + context to do a good job with analysis.

When it comes to ways to look at Musk's endeavors with Neuralink, one of the first concerns is the lack of specific information given to the public. Some people are concerned about missing details about the Neuralink program that they expect from the company. "... There is frustration about a lack of detailed information. There has been no confirmation that the trial has begun, beyond Musk's tweet" (Drew, 2024). Also very concerning is the fact that Neuralink has not registered any trials at ClinicalTrials.gov and has not given any information as to why they have not done so (Drew, 2024). At the very least, it can be said that Elon Musk has conducted his practices in a shady way, in that he only has shared the "successes" of his Neuralink journey

Analysis goes further than summarizing article points. YOU identify the strengths and weaknesses of each argument.

Historical elements are included in order to provide background and context for the current analysis.

"Well documented" should be 2 words; this is just a mistake. Be sure to proofread!

As recommended by the outline in the instructions, the first body paragraph analyzes one potential viewpoint.

(seemingly to generate publicity), while refusing to give concrete detail that would prove those successes rather than just leave them as hearsay. As such, the lack of reported failures leaves too many doubts for us to believe any stories of success.

On the other hand, some scientists are excited about the possibilities that Neuralink promises. Author Liam Drew quotes neuroscientist Mariska Vansteensel who stated, “What I hope to see is that they can demonstrate that it is safe. And that it is effective at measuring brain signals – short term, but, most importantly, long term” (Drew, 2024). Additionally, Elon Musk seems to be coming from a place of good intentions, trying to develop Neuralink for those with disabilities, who would greatly benefit from the ability to “telepathically” communicate with technology. In an NPR interview, Musk said, “initial users will be those who have lost the use of their limbs... Imagine if Stephen Hawking could communicate faster than a speed typist or auctioneer. That is the goal” (Chappell, 2024). While Musk has shown good intentions for Neuralink, and has gotten the support of some scientists who show excitement about Musk’s endeavors, there is still plenty to be concerned about in terms of Musk’s lack of transparency when it comes to how he is conducting his company. Grand ideas are easy to get excited about, but actually implementing them safely in real life requires detail and oversight. Those two things seem to be lacking for Neuralink. It is nice to envision a better life for amputees and those with disabilities, but if the procedure doesn't meet safety requirements, they could be worse off than when they started due to serious new injuries caused by Neuralink.

Regardless of your own views, you include at least one alternate viewpoint beyond the first one you identify. Again, use quotes and outside ideas to support this clearly-defined take on the story.

Here the student acknowledges the strengths of this viewpoint, but goes on to explain why they aren't sufficient to convince them. That's *\*weighing\** the perspective.

All in all, what’s most concerning to me about Musk’s endeavors in Neuralink is the lack of concrete information given to the public. In addition to Musk’s track record of “shady” business practices, the fact that he isn’t giving enough information to the public for us to be able to properly discern his studies' validity is more concerning. That falls under the category of another logical fallacy, the **Streisand effect**, in which the attempt to hide certain information inadvertently draws more attention to it (Potasznik, Day 3). In this case, the hidden information

Conclusion clarifies student view and finalizes analysis. Avoid bringing up new information in the conclusion. This student introduces a new class term in the conclusion, which is risky, but it fits well and is explicitly defined and applied.

is the detailed analysis and oversight paperwork that should accompany clinical trials in order to ensure their validity and safety. In order for this announcement from Neuralink to be taken seriously by the general public, I believe it is necessary for them to publicize more concrete evidence, such as uploading their trials to ClinicalTrials.gov.

**This isn't a how-to paper, but you can bring up potential solutions to a problem. From the mistakes page: do not idly suggest that "the government should do more" or "companies should take steps to ensure..." etc. Be specific. Who should do what, exactly, and why?**

## References

Bruner, R. (2022, April 27). *A Complete Timeline of Elon Musk's Business Endeavors*. TIME.

<https://time.com/6170834/elon-musk-business-timeline-twitter/>

Chappell, B. (2024, January 30). What to know about Elon Musk's Neuralink, which put an implant into a human brain. *NPR*.

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Hern, A. (2024, January 30). Elon Musk says Neuralink has implanted its first brain chip in human. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/jan/29/elon-muskneuralink-first-human-brain-chip-implant>

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