Needs Identification and Problem Statement

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Abstract:

This project involves creating a demonstration using the RoboMaster S1, an educational robot, to highlight the ethical issues surrounding the programming of autonomous systems, especially autonomous weapons systems. The goal is to address key concerns like digital dehumanization, algorithmic biases, and the loss of human control. The project will explore how these systems could be used in warfare, border control, and policing, and raise awareness about the potential dangers of relying on machines for critical decision-making.

Client Needs (In order of importance):

(1) Advocacy:

- An effective video art piece advocating against the education and use of autonomous weapon systems using the RoboMaster S1.
- Video should warn against the practice of teaching students and aspiring engineers how to program autonomous weapon systems.
- The video must not glorify warfare, and the political message must not target a specific person or group.
- Deliver subversive anti-war messages to the public.

(2) Robot/Platform specifications:

- RoboMaster S1 is the only robot being used
- Cannot have modifications than cannot be undone
- Cannot target any live beings
- Can't shoot/launch/fire, or emulate violence
- In terms of programming, scratch is preferred, but python is also acceptable.
- The video must address at least three of the ethical concerns related with autonomous weapon systems.

(3) Technical Specifications:

- Video should be no longer than 90 seconds.
- Piece has freedom to be expressed in several different ways
- Tone is subversive, displaying an anti-war idea

(4) Manifesto Requirements:

- Video must be accompanied by a 1-page manifesto written from the perspective of the robot objecting to being used for educating the design of autonomous weapons.
- Manifesto has no precise word limit but should not exceed a page.

Problem Statement:

The client requires a 90-second video advocating against autonomous weapon systems, using the RoboMaster S1 robot. The video must convey a subversive anti-war message, addressing key ethical concerns such as digital dehumanization, algorithmic bias, and loss of human control. It should not glorify violence, target specific individuals or groups, or imply harm. The RoboMaster S1 must remain unmodified and non-violent, and the video should be accompanied by a one-page manifesto written from the robot's perspective, explaining its objection to being used for autonomous weapons education. The project must adhere to technical constraints while effectively communicating its message.