Paper Assignment

For this assignment, you will need to write a 4-6 page (typed, double-spaced) paper that addresses the following question.

Fukuyama writes:

The aim of this book is to argue that […] the most significant threat posed by contemporary biotechnology is the possibility that it will alter human nature and thereby move us into a "posthuman" stage of history. This is important, I will argue, because human nature exists, is a meaningful concept, and has provided a stable continuity to our experience as a species. It is, conjointly with religion, what defines our most basic values. Human nature shapes and constrains the possible kinds of political regimes, so a technology powerful enough to reshape what we are will have possibly malign consequences for liberal democracy and the nature of politics itself. (7)

The movie Gattaca explores a future where technology has damaged liberal democracy, if not the core essence of what it means to be human. Do you think the futures that Gattaca and Fukuyama warn us about are reasonable predictions of what is to come, or are they based on incorrect assumptions about technology and about people?

Use Nosich’s seven standards to evaluate the reasonableness of the future predictions put forth by Fukuyama and by Gattaca. (Please bold each standard as you discuss it.)