Predictions: Technology of the Future

Science fiction writers keep up with the latest news about what technology can do now. Then the writers imagine what the technology might do as it develops in the future. Will it make human life better? If so, how? Or will the technology have harmful, negative effects on our life on Earth?

With a partner or group of classmates, read about the technologies in the first column. In the second and third columns, write your ideas about a possible positive and possible negative result of each technology.

Technology of the Future	Possible Positive Effect	Possible Negative Effect
Travel: Instead of spending summer vacations at the beach or the Grand Canyon, families will pile into space ships for trips to the moon.		
Robots: Microscopic robots called "assemblers" will reproduce themselves to make all kinds of consumer goods. These "smart" robots will even invent and build new kinds of goods.		

Your completed chart may give you some ideas for your own science fiction story. Keep the chart handy to refer to later.