Possible First-Contact Scenarios

Beneficial
- Mere Detection
- Philosophical implications
- Cooperative extraterrestrials
- Discussion of science and mathematics
- Advice in avoiding global catastrophe
- Uncooperative extraterrestrials
- Humanity successfully overcomes a threat

Neutral
- Invisible to us
- Intentionally hiding
- Unintentionally escape our notice
- Noticeable but indifferent
- Uninteresting and non-useful
- Mild nuisance

Harmful

Intentional harm
- Selfish extraterrestrial intelligence (ETI)
- ETI attack us
- ETI enslave us
- Universalist extraterrestrial intelligence (ETI)
- To more efficiently use our resources

Unintentional harm

Physical hazard:
- Transmission of disease
- Invasive species
- Mechanical harm
- Unfriendly Artificial Intelligence

Information hazard:
- Computer virus
- Biological hazard
- Demoralizing cultural impact