

ENGR 125CS

Essay #1:

Due: Friday 29 September at the start of class

So far in ENGR 125, you have read the biographical summaries of Louis Pasteur, Marie Curie, Guglielmo Marconi, and William Shockley. All of these individuals have made at least one significant discovery or invention that has shaped some aspect of our everyday life.

Consider the following thesis statement:

Every discovery and invention intended to solve one of society's problems also has some unintended negative consequences.

Choose an invention or discovery attributed to one of the four individuals (Pasteur, Curie, Marconi, or Shockley), and write a 1-2 page essay that either supports or refutes the thesis statement. Back up your statement with specific examples, either from the class readings or from other relevant sources.

The essay needs to follow a standard format:

- Your name, class, date, and "Essay #1" at the top of the first page.
- Introductory paragraph – expresses the thesis statement, your interpretation, the invention or discovery you chose, and the concise set of points you will cover in the rest of the essay.
- Supporting paragraphs – plan two or three paragraphs that contain the examples and commentary you use to support your points. Each paragraph must include a topic sentence and be self-contained to the extent possible.
- Concluding paragraph – a short, final paragraph to summarize your ideas and theme.

Your essays are to be prepared using a word processor and good quality printer. Use double-spaced lines with margins of one inch on each edge of the sheet.

Remember, in ENGR 125 there are NO LATE SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED. If you know you will be missing class on 9/29, please make arrangements in advance by email contact with the instructor.

Grading

I will grade each essay using a holistic method: the overall quality of the written material, including the strength and validity of your claims, the clear organization of each paragraph, and the mechanical/grammatical integrity. The grading scale will be as follows:

3 = top score. The essay clearly addresses the thesis statement. The arguments presented are well thought-out and creatively presented. Carefully chosen examples are used to support all statements and claims. The writing style is appropriate for a college paper, including excellent spelling and grammar.

2 = acceptable score. The essay is judged adequate, but with one or more shortcomings. Spelling and grammar are excellent, and at least some aspect of the essay can be considered outstanding. A paper in the '2' category might include a somewhat weak argument or incompletely formulated examples.

1 = poor score. A score of '1' indicates that the essay is below expectations in most areas (content, responsiveness to the thesis statement, spelling, grammar). An essay in the 'poor' category will have fundamental flaws in organization and/or writing mechanics.