

# ENGR 125CS

Essay #2:

Due: Friday 27 October at the start of class

---

We have recently been discussing the engineering process, the nature of engineered systems, and the role of professional and social groups in shaping the world around us. In a previous essay you wrote about the possible "unintended negative consequences" of new discoveries and inventions. This assignment will take another small step in the same direction.

Consider the following thesis statement:

***Progress, in a technological sense, should be judged on the balance between how many people are helped vs. how many people are harmed.***

Select an example from a recent newspaper or magazine article that describes *progress* in some particular technological area, and write a compact essay that supports (or refutes) the thesis statement. As always, be sure to back up your claims with specific examples, either from the class readings or from other relevant sources.

The essay needs to follow our standard ENGR 125CS format:

- Your name, class, date, and "Essay #2" at the top of the first page.
- Introductory paragraph – expresses the thesis statement, your interpretation, the specific area of technological *progress* you have chosen, 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. The length should be about one page.

Remember, in ENGR 125 there are NO LATE SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED. If you know you will be missing class on 10/27, please make arrangements in advance by email contact with the instructor.

Grading will follow the 3-point scale used previously for grading essays in this course.