

Based on the conversation at our department meeting, I've revised Option E and also thrown in a new option based on a quote sent to me by Randy. I've also deleted the "use of the text" criteria on a draft of this scoring guide:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yYonVaK2isgDLHtg4m8ZL8Qdg3UlcJpkAp4D16IMcSw/edit?usp=sharing>

SAMOHI BASELINE ESSAY 2022

"Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do."

– Potter Stewart, U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Directions: You will have 45 minutes to plan and write an essay on the topic assigned below. Before you begin writing, read the passage carefully and plan what you will say.

Your essay should be as well organized and as carefully written as you can make it.

"You must always remember that the products of your mind can be used by other people either for good or for evil, and that you have a responsibility that they be used for good."

— **Dean Llewellyn M. K. Boelter**

"The road to hell is paved with good intentions," *St. Bernard of Clairvaux*. This quote by St. Bernard ties into the one by Dean Llewellyn M. K. Boelter as both relate to the idea of well meaning concepts being used against their original purpose. What Boelter is saying in his quote is as straightforward as it seems. Despite our creations or plans having initially positive and helpful impacts, they can always be turned against us; that it is our duty to ensure the original aim doesn't become askew. Regarding this, I heavily agree with Boelter's statement because of the validity of it through evidence from world history and from our ever evolving modern world. Standout examples of this being the case are the Internet, connecting everybody across the globe, all the while opening the door to cyber crimes, and TNT as it was originally supposed to serve as a clothing dye, but ended up in artillery due to being tougher than most explosives.

At the turn of the century, humanity began to become more and more invested into the world shifting invention known as the internet. While new and exciting in the early 2000s, nowadays, it has become a necessity in everyday life. We use our phones to call and text those important to us, and our computers to complete work, or relieve stress through music and games. Everything we do has become tied to these machines, and the critical innovation that allows them to function. While these pieces of technology are useful to the common joe, they can also be used to deliver devastating blows onto society. Things like the dark web, the unmonitored and dangerous underbelly of the internet, are used daily by criminals to traffic illegal goods, people, hire hitmen, etc. All it can take to get into this is a tech savvy teenager who is eager to make quick cash through morally questionable means. Aside from the dark web, the internet doesn't seem like all that bad of a place, right? Yes, illegal activities occur, but

they happen everywhere, so who's surprised? Since the advent of the internet, there have always been those who specialize in cyber attacks. While it may not seem like an issue, every single day millions of these attacks occur in every interconnected country on the globe. These breaches are people constantly attempting to hijack devices, and steal information for their own personal gain. On top of the dozens of other heinous (yet, more tame) acts committed over the 'net daily, it has its downsides. Despite all of these glaring misuses for evil, the internet overall is a large contribution to society. No longer are we separated from each other by hundreds of miles, with communication taking months, but instantly able to communicate with loved ones across the globe due to the internet. Linking back to Boelter's quote, that responsibility of the product being used for good over evil, while not exactly being met, is managed to the best ability of all countries for a better world.

Before the internet, the world seemed like a much more desolate place. Multiple conflicts and wars seemingly started every century over seemingly the same disagreements. Going into the 20th century, things weren't much different. In 1863, a German chemist known as Julius Wilbrand created trinitrotoluene (also known as TNT). Originally, Wilbrand had created the chemical to serve as a yellow clothing dye. Its explosive properties were noticed early on, but wouldn't become fully realized until 1891, and used as a munitions explosive in 1902. Unknowingly, Wilbrand had created one of the most versatile, and commonly used explosives ever. This simple dye would go on to not only change warfare, but absolutely revolutionize it. It was more destructive than anything prior, being able to be used to crack the hull of ships, in artillery, etc. Not much is known regarding Wilbrand's opinion on his discovery's revolution, but what can be done is considering things from his perspective. Decades after having created a seemingly harmless clothing dye, it suddenly is picked up by multiple militaries, tinkered with, and eventually mass produced and distributed in wars across the planet. While governments are not usually considered 'evil', their actions in this situation can be seen as such. With Wilbrand having no way to protest or fight their actions, he could only sit and watch as his intended harmless contraption destroyed homes, and ended lives.

Write a multiparagraph essay in which you do the following:

- **Explain Boelter's argument above in your own words.**
- **Discuss the degree to which you agree or disagree.**
- **Support your position by providing reasons and examples from your own experience, observations, and reading.**

Rubric for Grading

Scoring Criteria	6: Exemplary	5: Exceeds Proficiency	4: Proficient	3: Developing Proficiency	2: Standards Not Met	1: Standards Not Met
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Response to the Task (meaning you understand what is being asked of you and follow the directions)	Addresses all aspects of the task clearly and effectively	Addresses the task clearly, but may respond to some aspects of the task more effectively than others.	Addresses the task, but may slight some aspects of the task	Neglects aspects of the task.	Indicates confusion about the task or responds in a tangential way	Demonstrates lack of comprehension of the task and/or doesn't respond to the task
Claim Statement (meaning you have a thesis statement or claim statement)	Effectively states a position on the topic, offering sophisticated insight to the discussion	States a clear position on the topic, offering insight to the discussion	Adequately states a position on the topic	Inadequately states a position on the topic.	Little success in stating a position on the topic, repeating much of what has already been said in the passage.	Does not state a position on the topic
Organization (meaning transitions, flow, sequencing of thought, etc)	Demonstrates a thorough and critical understanding of the subtlety and nuance of the text in developing an insightful response	Demonstrates a complete and critical understanding of the text in developing a well-reasoned response	Demonstrates a generally accurate understanding of the main ideas of the text in developing an adequate response	Demonstrates some understanding of the main ideas of the text, but may misread OR misconstrue parts of it OR neglect parts of it in developing response	Demonstrates little understanding of the main ideas of the text, or does not use the text appropriately in developing a response.	Demonstrates a lack of understanding of the text and/or does not refer to the text at all in developing a response
Development of the Argument & Support of the Claim (meaning you understand how to support your claim and do it effectively)	The essay is effectively organized, including all points listed for score 5. Additionally, the organization intentionally builds to a conclusion	The essay is well organized, including clear topic sentences, coherent paragraphing, and effective transitions	The essay is adequately organized, including topic sentences, coherent paragraphing and transitions	The essay is inadequately organized, lacking one of the key elements listed for score 4	The essay shows little success in organization \, lacking two of the key elements listed for score 4	The essay is disorganized, undeveloped and/or too short to assess
Grammar, Style, & Mechanics (meaning you do not submit without spell checking and proof reading)	Effectively develops and supports position using a variety of relevant and specific evidence with insightful analysis	Develops and supports position using at least two pieces of specific evidence with effective analysis	Adequately develops and supports position using at least two pieces of relevant evidence and adequate analysis	Inadequately develops and supports position using only one piece of specific evidence OR only hypothetical evidence and weak analysis	Little success in developing and supporting position, providing generalizations without specific evidence and little or no analysis.	Serious flaws in developing and supporting position, providing little or no evidence
Response to the Task (meaning you understand what is being asked of you and follow the directions)	Is generally free from errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics (but not flawless); uses sophisticated diction and syntax	May have a few minor errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics, but uses less sophisticated diction and syntax	May have some errors that do not interfere with meaning, but demonstrates control of grammar, usage, and mechanics	Has an accumulation of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.	Is marred by numerous errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that may interfere with meaning	Has serious and persistent errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that frequently interfere with meaning