

'GIVE YOURSELF THE EDGE' ESSAY COMPETITION 2019

100 YEARS OF INVENTIONS

"Science can amuse and fascinate us all, but it is engineering that changes the world."

—Isaac Asimov (American writer & Professor of Biochemistry)

Ever wondered what this world would be like or what our lives would look like if there was no engineering? Many of us fail to realize that we are dependent on engineering for lives to function up to a great extent. Think about it. The first engineers were the ones who designed and created the simple machines like the lever, the pulley and the inclined plane that have made our lives so much easier. Today, engineering covers many disciplines and all are working towards keeping our modern civilization functional.

One of my favourite inventions of the past hundred years is the Internet. I believe it has changed our lives in a way that none of us ever imagined. Have you ever wondered what it would be like if we had to read a map every time we wanted to go some place, go out to buy food and groceries when you can hardly leave the bed?, wait for weeks and months for your important mails to arrive?, not be able to study or learn new things just because you can't afford to travel or have enough money?, not be able to see your spouse, life partner, or child if they are abroad. Today, Internet helps us with all that! It plays a very vital role in our lives and is therefore I believe very much appreciated in this century by all age groups all over the world.

Human beings are curious creatures and the limitless access to information is what makes the Internet the most appealing. It helps researchers with their research as it provides access to a vast amount of information from all over the world. It helps people exchange information and ideas from different corners of the world and eliminates the geographical gap. Regardless of your geographical location, you can conduct meetings, attend a conference or a discussion group. It also allows you to learn new things and subjects. Whether you are in kindergarten, homeschooled, or enrolled in university, hundreds and thousands of educational websites and electronic books are available on the Internet that are used by people across the globe. Latest news and updates of the world are available to us 24/7. Those of us looking for new friends or a partner can thank Internet! Isn't it fun and exciting waiting for those video calls? Watching movies, TV series, documentaries and cartoons has become even more easy and enjoyable thanks to Netflix, one of the largest Internet companies in the world. Earning extra cash through part-time online jobs has helped many. Uploading files on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, are all possible today because of engineering.

Although, many may argue about the disadvantages of Internet, one can go on and on about the benefits of the Internet. Its advantages outweigh its disadvantages. In my opinion, Internet is one of the most incredible inventions. However, we must realize and understand that Internet would have not been possible if it wasn't for the smart engineers. We need to understand and accept the fact that people of all walks of life are in some way or the other affected by engineering. Engineering shapes our lives and changes our world. We can only hope that in future engineering will benefit mankind more than do harm.

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