Humanitarian Open Source Software

Quiz #1 on independent reading

Choose three of the five following essay questions to write brief responses (150-200) words. Please be sure to make specific reference to the article, i.e. use as many examples as you can recall from the reading.

1. How has the OLPC program failed to meet its own goals, and in what other ways has it been successful? Can the program be judged solely against its own goals?
2. Richard Stallman is not fond of the term “Open Source.” He prefers the term “free” as is freedom, not as in “free beer.” Can you explain the difference, and is one really “free-er” than the other?
3. Describe a “Community of Practice” as laid out in The Open Source Way, and briefly explain how your project’s participants will fit the model.
4. What about open source “takers?” Is it reasonable to expect users of open source software to contribute more than the nothing that most of them do? If so, how and when might the adopter world be brought into the contribution fold?
5. Do you think that open source collaboration represents the kind of “Global Collectivist Society” discussed in “The New Socialism?” Why or why not?