


Instructions

Your professor is teaching a class on economics. Write a post responding to the professor's question. In your response you should:


- express and support your personal opinion
- make a contribution to the discussion

An effective response will contain at least 100 words.




Professor Henson

When people are asked about the most important discoveries or inventions made in the last two hundred years, they usually mention something very obvious, like the computer or the cell phone. But there are thousands of other discoveries or inventions that have had a huge impact on how we live today. What scientific discovery or technological invention from the last 200 years—other than computers and cell phones—would you choose as being important? Why?



Paul N

I mean, we're so used to science and technology that we are not even aware of all the things we use in our daily lives. I would probably choose space satellites. This technology happened in the last hundred years, and it has become important for so many things. Just think about navigation, or telecommunications, or even the military.



Lena A

I am thinking about medical progress. Like, for example, when scientists discovered things about healthy nutrition. I am thinking of identifying all the vitamins we need to stay healthy. I am not sure exactly when the vitamin discoveries happened, but I know they are very important. Our health is much better than it was 200 years ago.

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XDF Normal Version:

Personally, I think one important invention that has always been overlooked is the electric generator. Everything we do in our daily lives nowadays require electricity to work. Without generators, our modern way of life will simply not exist. Therefore, I believe that the invention of electric generator definitely warrants some consideration. Although Paul has a good point about what we use in our daily lives, I think he is making that mistake himself. The electric generator is much more important than satellites. As for Lena's argument about medical progress, I have to say that the synthesis of any drug require heavily on electricity. Therefore, the electric generator is one of the most important inventions in the last 200 years.

XDF OP Version:

Personally, I think Paul N has a better point. Comparing with vitamins, I think that inventions like satellites have more right to be defined as important. The reason I say so is because I would like the main criteria for judging if an invention is "important" to be the impact it has on our daily lives. With this in mind, my logic is very simple. Whereas vitamins do save lives in a broader sense, it does not truly impact our daily lives. I did not take vitamins today, and I'm totally fine. However, when we consider satellites under the same criteria, we could easily see how important it is to us. Just like Paul said, we depend on satellites for navigation, telecommunications and so on. It is impossible for a normal human being to go through a single day without contributions from satellites; equally, it is impossible for human society, at least a modern human society, to function without satellites. Therefore, I think we do need to give the "unseen heroes" of technological innovations some credit. Along with satellites, I would also like to nominate fiber cable, radio and the use of the binary system as possible candidates in this discussion.

Sample:

For me, the invention of the airplane, by Brazilian inventor Santos Dumont, is a good example of a important invention from the last two centuries. It made possible to connect different places even if they are thousand of miles away one from another. People can be in any place of the world within twenty four hours or less from the time they get inside an airplane. This is fantastic! Also, the world trade become more efficient. You can eat fresh lobsters from northeastern Brazil even if you are in Dubai! I think that is really interesting. Since the ancient Greece the man wanted to fly like the birds, and Mr Dumont made it possible. And I am particularly proud of him because he was a Brazilian citizen, just like me. So, that's my opinon. I could snow you some of my admiration for this great man and his beautiful invention.

Annotation1:

The response is relevant and clearly expressed with good elaboration. (Although the Wright brothers are often credited with the invention of the airplane. Santos was a major figure in the early history of flight and developed the first commercially viable airplane.) There are some errors in mechanics (no space after periods, not capitalizing Brazilian), and a few in the use of prepositions and articles ("any place of the world" "a important invention"). These are the kinds of errors to be expected from a competent writer under timed conditions.