

# Assignment & Results

## Draft Essay 1

In this assignment, you will paste your draft of Essay 1 as your answer. (If you'd like to remain anonymous to other students, you should remove your name.) Once the "answering" period is over, come back to this assignment to compare and review other students' drafts.

Technical notes: If you are pasting from Word, please use the "Paste from Word" button. File submission has been disabled to simplify the system.

## Your answer and its feedback

**You answered on Sep 26 @ 7:34 pm:**

Topic : Thomas Haigh and Mark Priestly (2015) argue against depictions of Ada Lovelace as a hero for computer scientists. Valerie Barr (2015) disagrees. In your essay adjudicate the dispute. Who is right? Who is wrong? What is your take on their debate?

The Hero of Computing History and Society

In general, a computer programmer is a person who deals with the software of computer. A computer is of no use if does not have any kind of software. Software is like a heart and brain of the computer and without it the computer will just be a metal box. Software program is something that gives instruction to the machine; how to complete specific task given to it. Ada Lovelace was indeed one of the heroes for computer scientists as she not only provided the foundation of computer programming but also, she became a role model for women in CS society.

The major role that Lovelace played in programming history was that she provided ideas about how to implement science and mathematics by using machines and get the required output from them. She was the one who provided information about how Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine can be used to do mathematical operations in practical life due to which she became the first computer programmer (Haigh & Priestley, 2015). "Notes" written by Lovelace contained detailed information on how to calculate Bernoulli numbers by using Analytical Engine (Haigh & Priestley, 2015). Not only this, but she was also way ahead of her time; "Google's N-gram tool, based on a massive full-text database of English language books, suggests that by the mid-1990s Lovelace's fame had already outstripped those of computer-builders such as Presper Eckert and Howard Aiken" (Haigh & Priestley, 2015, p.8). Haigh and Priestly believed that Lovelace was part of her own time she became so popular because she was well acquainted with modern concepts of mathematics and algebra which she used to create innovative idea for analytical engine (2015) but according to Steven Johnson, "her footnote opened up a conceptual space" eventually filled by "Google queries, electronic music, iTunes, hypertext, Pixar." (2014). Haigh and Priestley also argue that Babbage Analytical engine was never built-in real life and there is no evidence that the concepts of computer programming provided by Lovelace were ever used by the people how designed early computers (2015), but we can not be so certain that Lovelace's finding did not help anyone at all as, "she was already more famous than any Turing Award winner, having inspired at least a dozen biographers, a major computer language, several novels, a Google Doodle, a comic book series, and a movie" (Haigh and Priestley, p.2, 2015). In addition to that, people who designed early computer must have studied computing history and they must have gone through other scientists work maybe they did not know Lovelace directly, but they would have seen her programs and got ideas for computer programming indirectly through other sources.

Ada Lovelace also proved to be a flag bearer of success of women in computer society. Barr raises the issue of imbalanced gender proportion in the field computer programming by stating that men getting a computer science degree is 5% more then women betting computer science degree. She writes that Lovelace is role model for women who intend to make a career in computer science, "Despite the historical differences, there is something very relatable about her for today's women" (Barr, p.2, 2015). Adding more to this, Barr also highlights heroic traits of Lovelace; she argues that Lovelace unlike men of that era did not have same excess to education, controlled by society but despite of those hardships, "she was in many ways able to ignore the script society wanted to write for her, or maybe she managed to just be somewhat unaware of it" (Barr, p.2, 2015).

To sum up everything that has been stated so far, Lovelace does prove to be a superhero for computer scientist as she not only excelled in the giving the world one of its very first concepts of computer programming and science, but she also played a major role in the lives of women who were under confident or suppressed by the society. The reason for this was, she herself overcame those barriers and became a substantial person in computing history as well as society.

## Reference

Haigh, T., & Priestley, M. (2015). Innovators assemble. *Communications of the ACM*, 58(9), 20–27. <https://doi.org/10.1145/2804228> [see: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2804228>]

Barr, V. (2015). Why is Ada Lovelace still the woman that young (and not so young) women look to? Retrieved from <https://cacm.acm.org/blogs/blog-cacm/195396-why-is-ada-lovelace-still-the-woman-that-young-and-not-so-young-women-look-to/> [see: <https://cacm.acm.org/blogs/blog-cacm/195396-why-is-ada-lovelace-still-the-woman-that-young-and-not-so-young-women-look-to/>]

▼ 4 feedback comments for your answer (4 private, 0 public)

student\_49720797 gave private feedback 🗨️ on Oct 1 @ 5:09 pm:

This is a finished essay that includes all of the important components. The essay's main ideas are separated into different paragraphs, with a thesis statement, opening paragraph, and concluding paragraph, thus making this essay a finished product. Footnotes are included for every evidence used to support the statement, as well as the bibliography. Moreover, the way the ideas are brought out is very effective, as it goes along the order from making a statement, following clear evidence, which makes the essay easy to read and understand. Lastly, very few direct quotations are used which help connecting the writer's ideas more efficiently. However, this essay can be improved by separating the ideas into different paragraphs so the reader could easily take reference to what they have just read.

sassyporcupine gave private feedback 🗨️ on Oct 1 @ 3:18 pm:

- 1) The most effective part of this essay was it's good use of examples.
- 2) This is the most effective because it properly outlines the essay and makes for good arguments.
- 3) I think the conclusion paragraph could have been a bit stronger.
- 4) This would really make the essay stand out, as you want to end with something strong that will stick in the readers mind for a bit after they've finished reading it.

Student\_17664577 gave private feedback 🗨️ on Oct 1 @ 9:25 am:

1. The most effective part of the answer is the thesis.
2. Your thesis is clearly show your position and not too long.
3. The least effective part of the answer is the evidence 1.
4. In the evidence 1, you include a lot of citations. But usually there is a explanation should be followed by each citation.

Student\_92796566 gave private feedback 🗨️ on Sep 27 @ 6:29 pm:

words choice is excellent good use of transtions words. Theisis was clearly stated.