2017 High School Technology Essay Contest

New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) is pleased to offer all high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to participate in a technology essay contest.

The top three winning students will be recognized with NEIT tuition scholarships. First place will be awarded a $2,000.00 scholarship, second place, $1,500.00 scholarship, and third place, $1,000.00 scholarship. If you have any questions or comments please contact Amanda Metzger, Admissions Manager, at 800-736-7744 ext. 3377 or by e-mail at Ametzger@neit.edu.

<u>Competition Offered</u>

- Technology Essay Contest

Requirements for Essay Contests

- Essay contests are open to juniors and seniors.
- Essays are to be typed and double-spaced on 8 ½ x 11 paper.
- The student's name and high school must appear at the top of each sheet.
- A cover sheet must accompany the student's essay. The cover sheet must have the essay contest, student's name, home address, phone number, high school name and graduation date.
- Essays are to be 500-750 words in length.
- All essays are to be submitted with cover sheet no later than **April 17, 2017,** to Amanda Metzger, Admissions Office, New England Institute of Technology, One New England Tech Blvd., East Greenwich, RI 02818
- Students can enter as many contests as they wish.

Technology Essay Question

A recent *New York Times* article published on October 25, 2016 entitled "The Pentagon's 'Terminator Conundrum': Robots That Could Kill on Their Own" argued that the militaries of many countries including China, Russia, Britain, Israel and the United States are investing heavily in development of artificial intelligence systems to control autonomous weapons capable of attacking and killing people independently without authorization, decisions, or control of supervising human beings.

Concerned observers have compared these autonomous weapons systems to Skynet, the deadly artificial intelligence-controlled killing machine network in The Terminator, as well as the killer robots and futuristic weapons seen in other Hollywood science fiction movies. They have raised questions about the morality of building such autonomous weapons, the danger of accidental killings of the innocent, uncertainties about the ability to properly control these weapons, and the risks of proliferation and arms races.

The article stated that U.S. military planners are worried about the artificial intelligence and autonomous weapons capabilities being developed by China and Russia. The Pentagon wants to push forward with development to ensure it doesn't fall behind and to preserve what it sees as current U.S. military superiority to these countries. Citing the impressive progress already made by the Russians and Chinese, American military decision makers don't believe they will be able to acquire a decisive superiority over Moscow and Beijing in autonomous weapons. Washington does believe, however, that the combination of these weapons and the greater ingenuity of American military personnel could provide the U.S. with significant advantages over these countries in the future.

Question

What policy should the United States adopt toward the development of autonomous weapons and why? What are the ethical and practical arguments in favor of and against development of such weapons? On balance, do the arguments in favor outweigh those against and why? Answer these questions in a short essay 500-750 words.