

Alternate assignment for 'Technology Equals Progress' students who can't attend field trip to Washington DC

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Some argue that we don't win freedom through security systems, cryptography, interrogations, and spot searches. We win freedom by "having the courage and the conviction to live every day freely and to act as a free society, no matter how great the threats are on the horizon" (Doctorow). The other side of this debate, as suggested most clearly by some provisions of the U.S. Patriot Act, the TSA's efforts to screen airline passengers, security cameras in high schools and other public places, and even the ARPHID access to dorms in place at Bucknell, that have been undertaken since 9/11 and other events, is to protect the members of the public from potential threats by putting protective measures in place to limit some aspects of our freedom. The question, therefore, is whether the price of greater freedom is greater exposure to potential threats, or vice versa.

For this alternative assignment, we ask you to take one of these venues:

- High schools or colleges
- White House or other official federal and state buildings
- Major airports
- Major stadiums hosting major sporting events or concerts (e.g., SuperBowl, World Series)
- Private workplaces and office buildings

and do some library research on how security measures have changed in recent years. Please utilize the library databases or library books (i.e., do not rely on Wikipedia). Using your research, first 1) describe in some detail how some aspect of security measures have changed at the venue in question (e.g., removal of shoes by passengers during the airport screening process; locked doors at high schools); 2) describe the rationale that has been offered by authorities for implementing this new security process, and 3) find at least one article or source that criticizes the security measure, offer your opinion about the debate over increased security, grounding it in the research that you find.

This assignment should be four pages. You should have at least three citations. Please use 1 inch margins and 11 pitch font, and include a bibliography. Any direct quotations should be short and should include text references.

Useful reference:

Video: Corey Doctorow on how we'll get beyond the privacy debate.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2hV46srAYc>