

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

## **A Technological Utopia**

(Original)

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Dear Ruby from 2020,

Sometimes, when I look at the sky, I realize that I am “just another person”, sharing Earth with billions of others, but it is all of these people that make up families, communities, and countries. I feel small, but to all of us, there is more than our physical size. We leave an impact and have our own unique stories.

For me, I can imagine no better spot. I have great relationships with friends and family. I also have found a significant other... I can feel you blush. Anyways, I am content, and I hope that you are, too.

Amazing people have encouraged me to get to where I am. I graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and am now working at AmuZo, a company that programs virtual reality rides for those with disabilities. VR has advanced and now captures all five senses, which authenticates the experience. When our technology testers try the VR, they claim to enjoy the taste and smell of the hot dogs at the amusement park!

I know that you are obsessed with technologies and time travel. I dream about what is coming ahead, too. The world has changed for the better in the last 10 years. As you can predict, technologies have evolved rapidly and artificial intelligence is more advanced than ever. The important part, however, is how they are being used.

They are more inclusive than ever, and cater to specific, individual needs. In March 2025, new visual prostheses were introduced, which helped those who were born blind. In the summer of 2027, eye trackers became accessible to the public at affordable prices. Corporations understand the value of helping, rather than maximizing profit.

People are a unified, collective force who come together to solve issues. I recall 2020 was the year of a global pandemic, which made people more appreciative of family and friends. Countries saw how they could help each other to benefit mutually.

Environmentally, we have also found ways to solve problems. I know that you were always a reusable-mug person — well now, it is a requirement to bring your own utensils and crockery to restaurants... Laws banned single-use cups and plates completely! Some still forget, but new habits take time to develop.

Now, new buildings are required to have green roofs. Scientists realized the need to use space effectively, and investigated the benefits this feature has on the environment and human health. If flying anywhere in 2028, you will gaze down to see a canvas of green! Some of them also have incorporated solar panels.

The population has grown, but it is sustainable. Houses are compact and energy-efficient. Fun fact: my apartment has a treadmill that generates power! Most exercise machines have dual functions, and I enjoy running at my apartment, knowing that I am generating power for later use.

Transportation has become efficient. There are fewer cars, because the government is introducing a train system, like the ones you see in science fiction movies. A train comes approximately every 8 minutes, and takes you anywhere locally.

You are fortunate to be where you are now. Appreciate those around you and what you have. Whatever hardships you are facing, someday you are going to look back at them and realize that helped you mature. Be thankful for every moment.

All of us enjoy luxurious possessions, but at the end, all that remains are memories. I think about how, after I retire, I will reflect and think about my graduation ceremony, getting my dog, and meeting my significant other. In your youth, make those memories. They are truly a person's most valuable "possessions", and are what make up the individual's story of life.

Every second, our Earth is evolving. We are learning and improving from mistakes. We are realizing the importance of cooperation. Our technology is advancing, and I think we are inching toward a world where it is used to help others: a technological utopia.

Take care.

Sincerely,

Ruby from 2030