

# Assignments



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Determinism and Free Will Honderich summarizes his writing by saying life-hope prevails because people have the capacity to change the course of events that can happen in the future. There is hope because people must not be subject to the whims of circumstances nor even to their own nature. While conditions and environment do highly influence the outcome of the future; still, man can alter the outcomes because if he wants to do so. Although this life-hope image is closely associated with Free Will, Honderich himself believes that man can rise above nature and the environment. There are three different arguments about determinism. First, the author said that if determinism is true, then we can accurately predict our future. Also, the author argued that it is completely illogical to completely “foretell” what would happen to a person’s life because everything has already been determined even at the micro-level. The second argument against determinism is that people can always change their mind about a decision let’s say to do something or to go somewhere. The author calls this “stepping-back” which is an active participation of an individual to take decisions as well as change decisions in his life. These decisions were based on valuing that the theory of determinism lacks according to Honderich. The last argument against determinism by Honderich is about determinism as “self-destructive”. He first stated the Epicurean argument to determinism to lay down a strong foundation for his reason. In the end, Honderich concluded that if determinism was true, then people do not have free will. Of course, we know that man has free will and would do whatever he chooses according to his value judgments. The main difference tells us that Frankfurt believes that a person is still morally responsible for the consequences of his actions. Frankfurt believes that individuals have a choice to make and be answerable

for their decisions. In the principle of alternative possibilities, coercion is an excuse for people not to do something that they should do. Frankfurt still considers the argument of alternative possibilities but weighs the conditions surrounding the actions of a person. The film minority report is related to Franklin's moral responsibility article because the story convicts people who have not done anything yet. The science fiction film tells us of a society where the future can be predicted by three mutants that can predict the future. In this case, people can get arrested for just thinking of a crime and not yet committing it. If such is the situation, then free will does not exist because the argument of stepping back would not be recognized by the police. Also, the society would be very harsh to civilians because people have to be tried first before imprisoned. Here, alternate possibilities are already explored through the use of multiple time-paths. As precogs recognize precrime, they pose an alternative solution: arrest the person so the crime would be prevented. In a way, Frankfurt accepts this proposition because he considers the principle of alternative possibilities false. He asserts that people must try their best to pursue a course of action with the best value possible. In case he deviates from the action due to coercion, Frankfurt does not accept that as an excuse at all. Perhaps, we can say that Frankfurt could have been the head of the bureau in the movie for his ideas set the theme for the film. Things cannot be changed and people are bound to their course of actions. There are no valid excuses for doing something else because you were prevented from doing so by an external factor. So in the film, people who haven't done anything yet are arrested and that reflects Franklin's attitude towards this issue. Indeed, it is a scary world to live in.