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The Essential Engineer delves into the philosophy of engineering. To help understand engineering, Petroski contrasts it to science. He takes offense at people who praise engineering marvels as successes in "science," and he points out how engineers get none of the glory when they are successful (science is praised) while they get the blame when their designs fail.

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About Henry Petroski. Henry Petroski is the Aleksandar S. Vesic Professor of Civil Engineering and a professor of history at Duke University, where he also serves as chairman of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The author of more than 15 books,... More about Henry Petroski

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Henry Petroski. Henry Petroski is the Aleksandar S. Vesic Professor of Civil Engineering and a professor of history at Duke University. The author of more than a dozen previous books, he lives in Durham, North Carolina, and Arrowsic, Maine. More Author Information

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Henry Petroski (February 6, 1942) is an American engineer specializing in failure analysis. A professor both of civil engineering and history at Duke University, he is also a prolific author. Petroski has written over a dozen books – beginning with *To Engineer is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design* (1985) and including a number of titles detailing the industrial design history of ...

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From the acclaimed author of *The Pencil* and *To Engineer Is Human*, *The Essential Engineer* is an eye-opening exploration of the ways in which science and engineering must work together to address our world's most pressing issues, from dealing with climate change and the prevention of natural disasters to the development of efficient automobiles and the search for renewable energy sources.

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Henry Petroski, Professor of Civil Engineering at Duke University, tackles these and related issues from the engineering perspective in The Essential Engineer, making the case that engineers often do not receive due credit, and that success usually requires that the scientist and the engineer work together. Many pages in The Essential Engineer are dedicated to try and define where science ends ...

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My review of The Essential Engineer, by Henry Petroski

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Petroski does seem a little focused on civil and mechanical engineering, so I was slightly disappointed that The Essential Engineer only touched briefly on electronic engineering , especially radio and television broadcasting, which has had such an impact on modern society – and which has come about almost entirely through the efforts of engineers.

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The Essential Engineer (2010 edition) | Open Library

So argues Henry Petroski, Aleksandar S. Vesic Professor of civil engineering and professor of history at Duke, in his latest book "The Essential Engineer," recently published by Alfred A. Knopf, N.Y. The subtitle of the book "Why Science Alone Will Not Solve Our Global Problems," might as well be the thesis of the book, with the title as the answer.

The Engineer is Essential to Solving Global Problems ...

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