**The World Is Becoming a Better Place**

*Discussion Questions*

Businesses seek profits. The news media are businesses. Who are their customers – that is, who pays them? What do they do to attract more profit?

The data show that gun violence in the US is declining, but many reasonable people believe it is getting worse. Picture people who haven’t seen these data. Discuss why someone who disagrees with the data might be correct in their disagreement, and why someone who disagrees with the data might be incorrect in their disagreement?

The data show that, since 1979, inflation-adjusted median wages have risen 6% and inflation-adjusted median compensation has risen 45%.

Humans who act as consumers seek to maximize their happiness. Humans who act as business owners seek to maximize their profit. What do humans who act as politicians seek to maximize?

Discuss the pros and cons of measuring someone’s economic well-being by their income. What alternate ways of (objectively) measuring economic well-being can you imagine? What are the pros and cons of those?