**The following assertion is from paragraph 35 of “The Ways We Lie” by Stephanie Ericsson:**

**…it’s not easy to entirely eliminate lies from our lives. No matter how pious we may try to be, we will still embellish, hedge, and omit to lubricate the daily machinery of living. But there is a world of difference between telling functional lies and living a lie. Martin Buber once said, “The lie is the spirit committing treason against itself.” Our acceptance of lies becomes a cultural cancer that eventually shrouds and reorders reality until moral garbage becomes as invisible as water to a fish.**

**Write an essay in which you defend, challenge, or qualify this statement. Use evidence to develop your argument from your reading, experience, and observation.**