

WRITING A CODE OF ETHICS FOR TECHNOLOGY – COMPSCI 590E

Overview:

This assignment asks you to create a code of ethics for a device, technology, program, protocol, or other computing innovation/invention. The idea is to conceptualize the guidelines that technology should use in order to maintain an ethical relationship with humans. Your assignment will be a cooperative project in that you will be working with a partner.

Specifications:

This task includes both a written text and a presentation as required components.

- Written portion: 1-2 pages, with a 2 page maximum
- Presentation: 5-6 minutes, with a visual aid or handouts

Description:

The written portion of this assignment should be an accessible, well-written text that arranges information for clarity and conciseness. Bullets, headings, and columns may be used as you see fit to create a clearly presented ethical code. As you develop your project, be sure to consider which constituency (perhaps one or more) you are imagining as the recipient of the technology's ethical considerations. For example, if you are creating a code for a new social media program, you might identify ISPs, Law Enforcement, Users, Developers, and Hardware designers as people who are (or might be) affected by the new platform's ethical considerations. You may design your code however you like. Perhaps you will target or focus on one constituency, or perhaps you will provide guiding principles (do no evil, for example) that are then elaborated for each different group.

The presentation's purpose is primarily to defend the rationale used in each group's specific project. Why did you pick that technology? Why did you identify that/those group(s) as important constituencies? Which acts or behaviors by the technology were you most concerned to prevent/curtail/ expand? Why? You should be prepared to explain and justify your group's approach to the assignment, referencing material from class when appropriate.

Grading:

- Except under extenuating circumstances, group members receive the same grade
- Written texts are weighted at 40% and presentations at 60%
- Written feedback will be provided using the following rubric:

	Excellent	Developing	Not as Expected
Written text is accessible, clear, and demonstrates evidence of careful organization. Documents use headings or layout to convey a hierarchy of ideas.			
Presentation is well orchestrated, uses an effective visual aid, and reflects equal participation of group members. Groups provide a comprehensive defense for their conceived ethical code documents.			
Overall ideas reflect critical thinking and the thoughtful incorporation of concepts from class, either discussions or readings. Adequate examples and explanation are present.			