The Assignment

1. Write a short (1-2 pages) **article about a piece of recent computer security and privacy research** from the field of computer security and privacy. This article will be written for a **specific audience of your choice.**
2. Write a **metacognitive reflection** (2-3 paragraphs) explaining the choices you made in writing your review for your audience. (“Metacognition” means “thinking about thinking”).

### **Deliverable 1: Check Your Understanding**

### Reading scientific papers is challenging. To ensure that you understand the scientific and technical content of the paper you are reviewing, answer the following questions:

* What scientific question(s) does this paper address?
* What are the scientific contributions of this paper?
* Describe the methods used.
* Describe the results.
* Describe any limitations of the work.

### **Deliverable 2: Your Article**

Choose paper

Specify explicitly the **venue** for which your article is written. Examples include "the New York Times editorial page", "a briefing for a Senator before a hearing", "an organization-wide memo at a small non-profit", etc.

When you write your article, **choose a specific audience**, such as “backend engineers”, “non-technical parents of young children, “physicians”, or “Senator Rivera”. In your article, tell your audience what they need to know about the paper's results; how it bears on the their interests, needs, and values; and what (if anything) they should do about it. Throughout your review, make sure that you define terms, simplify technical details, and use analogy as appropriate for your audience**.**

As you write, **use the security mindset to extrapolate** from the paper to other things of interest to your audience. What other security and privacy concerns or failures might arise from systems or assumptions similar to those described in the paper you review? Ensure that you think **beyond the technical** - what legal, social, economic, or other factors are relevant to your audience and to the security and privacy concerns discussed?

### **Deliverable 3: Metacognitive Reflection**

Write a reflective piece in which you describe **the choices you made in writing your review for your audience.** For the reflection, I (Ada) am your audience. Explain things such as:

* Why did you choose this audience?
* Why did you choose this venue?
* What do you imagine are the interests, needs, and values of your audience?
* What technical details did you leave out, simplify, or analogize?
* How are the above choices reflected in your writing?

Rubric

**Deliverable 1, Check Your Understanding**

**(\_\_\_\_\_ / 25 points toward Communicating Security and Privacy)**

The student…

\_\_\_\_\_ / 5 points …identifies the research question(s) addressed by the paper.\_

\_\_\_\_ / 5 points …identifies the scientific contributions of the work.

\_\_\_\_\_ / 5 points …accurately describes the methods.

\_\_\_\_\_ / 5 points …accurately describes the results.

\_\_\_\_\_ / 5 points …accurately describes the limitations.

**Deliverable 2, Your Article**

**(Each category on a 3 point scale: Needs Improvement/Good/Mastery. See the** [**Grading Policy**](https://sites.google.com/wellesley.edu/cs342/policies?authuser=0) **for details on how writing is graded in this course)**

The student…

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ...writes with excellent organization

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ...writes with excellent style

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ...writes with superior command of English usage and grammar

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ...makes a coherent argument

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ...justifies arguments with relevant evidence

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ...tailors their writing well for the audience

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ...effectively uses analogy/simplification/elision for the audience

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ...incorporates the audience's interests, needs, and values in the writing

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ...writes in an appropriate tone and at an appropriate level for the audience

**( \_\_\_\_\_\_ / 20 points toward The Security Mindset & Threat Modeling)**

The student...

\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 points: ...uses the security mindset to extrapolate from the paper to other potential challenges

\_\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 points: ...considers social, legal, economic, or other factors as appropriate

**Deliverable 3, Metacognition**

**(Each category on a 3 point scale: Needs Improvement/Good/Mastery. See the** [**Grading Policy**](https://sites.google.com/wellesley.edu/cs342/policies?authuser=0) **for details on how writing is graded in this course)**

The student...

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ...chooses and understands their audience well

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ …chooses a reasonable and appropriate audience based on their values and skills

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ …chooses a specific, rather than general, audience

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ …identifies relevant needs, interests, and values of the audience

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ …justifies writing choices appropriately according to the audience chosen.