

SPRK 010 - Discussion 1

Prof. Indar Freitas

Name: _____

1. This question will be regarding the "Weapons of Math Destruction" reading that you did before class today.

- a. O'Neil critiques the college ranking system for turning higher education into a competitive market rather than a learning environment.

How did college rankings influence your or your peers' decisions about where to apply or attend? Do you believe this influence was positive or negative?

- b. O'Neil suggests that ranking systems can exacerbate inequalities. From your experience, how accessible is higher education for people from different socioeconomic backgrounds? How might ranking systems contribute to these challenges?

- c. In Pairs, use one laptop to access the two data-fied views of UC Berkeley from the discussion slides (you should be able to access the slides directly). Compare the numeric data shared on the first few pages of each webpage. How do you think these number shape a visitor's view of the "educational excellence" of this university?

2. Now, lets look at some lines of code and determine what the output will be. Evaluate the following lines of code or state that there would be an error if the line of code were to run.

1. $(5 + 7) * \min(3, 4)$
2. $\text{abs}(\max(5, 2) - \min(7, 10))$
3. $\max(\text{abs}(5 - 12 // 2), \min(3, 4), 2 ** 3)$

- a What is the result of line 1?

- b What is the result of line 2?

- c What is the result of line 3?