**Please review all the assignments.**

For some of the questions below, you have to find out the answer yourself. At the end of this file, you may find an appendix on plagiarism (PP. 491-493 of the textbook).

**Chapter 1** Catalysts for Change

1. What are the two principal catalysts for the Information Age?

*Ans*.: Low-cost computers and high-speed communication network.

1. What are the first commercial computers? They were produced in what years?

*Ans*.:

1. Who conducted “the mother of all demos”? In what year?

*Ans*.: “The Mother of All Demos” is a name given to Douglas Engelbart’s December 9, 1968, demonstration of experimental computer technologies that are now commonplace. In this talk, Engelbart demonstrated the use of windows, email, mouse, and videoconferencing.

1. Define the term “time-sharing system”.

*Ans*.: Software that allows multiple users to edit and run their programs simultaneously on the same computer is called a “time-sharing system”.

1. Which commodity personal computer was the first one to adopt a graphical user interface? In what year?

*Ans*.:

1. Who is the creator of WorldWideWeb (a browser)?

*Ans*.:

1. Devices used in the creation, storage, manipulation, exchange, and dissemination of data, including text, sound, and images, fall into the category of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Consider ARPANET as the root of the Internet. Trace five key events of the Internet that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s.

*Ans*.:

**Chapter 2** Introduction to Ethics

1. What is the meaning of “the ethical point of view”, according to James Moor?

*Ans*.: Taking “the ethical point of view” means deciding that other people and their core values are worthy of your respect.

1. What is the difference between “morality” and “ethics”?

*Ans*.: Morality is a set of rules of conduct describing what people ought and ought not to do in various situations. Ethics is the philosophical study of morality, a rational and systematic examination into people’s moral beliefs and behavior.

1. How many ethical theories are discussed in Chapter 2? Name these theories.

*Ans*.: Eight theories are introduced, namely “Subjective Relativism”, “Cultural Relativism”, “Divine Command Theory”, “Ethical Egoism”, “Kantianism”, “Act Utilitarianism”, “Rule Utilitarianism”, and “Social Contract Theory”.

1. Which ethical theories are workable? Why they are workable?

*Ans*.: Only “Kantianism”, “Act Utilitarianism”, “Rule Utilitarianism”, and “Social Contract Theory” are workable. These theories are workable because they explicitly take people other than the decision-maker into consideration, assume that moral good and moral precepts are objective, and rely upon reasoning from facts and commonly held values. Also, all of these theories make it possible for a person to present a persuasive, logical argument to a diverse audience of skeptical, yet open-minded people.

1. According to Kant, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the only thing in the world that can be called good without qualification.
2. State the first formulation of Kant’s Categorical Imperative.

*Ans*.: Act only from moral rules that you can at the same time will to be universal moral laws.

1. State the second formulation of Kant’s Categorical Imperative.

*Ans*.: Act so that you always treat both yourself and other people as ends in themselves, and never only as a means to an end.

1. State the Principle of Utility (Greatest Happiness Principle).

*Ans*.: An action is right (or wrong) to the extent that it increases (or decreases) the total happiness of the affected parties.

1. Utilitarianism is a consequentialist theory, while Kantianism is a non-consequentialist theory.
2. What is the main difference between act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism?

*Ans*.:

1. Give the definition of Social Contract Theory, according to James Rachels.

*Ans*.: Morality consists in the set of rules, governing how people are to treat one another, that rational people will agree to accept, for their mutual benefit, on the condition that others follow those rules as well.

1. Both social contract theory and Kantianism are based on the idea that there are universal moral rules that can be derived through a rational process. However, there is an important difference in how we decide what makes a moral rule ethical. What is this difference?

*Ans*.: Kantianism has the notion that it is right for me to act according to a moral rule if the rule can be universalized. Social contract theory holds that it is right for me to act according to a moral rule if rational people would collectively accept it as binding because of its benefits to the community.

1. What is a negative right? Give an example.

*Ans*.: A negative right is a right that another can guarantee by leaving you alone to exercise your right. For example, the right of free expression is a negative right. In order for you to have that right, all others have to do is not interfere with you when you express yourself. (“Right to life” and “right to privacy” are two other examples.)

1. What is a positive right? Give an example.

*Ans*.: A positive right is a right that obligates others to do something on your behalf. The right to a free education is a positive right. In order for you to have that right, the rest of society must allocate resources so that you may attend school.

1. What is an absolute right? Give an example.

*Ans*.: An absolute right is a right that is guaranteed without exception. The right to life is an absolute right.

1. What is a limited right? Give an example.

*Ans*.: A limited right is a right that may be restricted based on the circumstances. The right to a free education is a limited right.

1. What is the correlation between different types of rights?

*Ans*.: Usually, negative rights are considered to be absolute rights. Typically, positive rights are considered to be limited rights.

1. State Rawls’s first Principle of Justice.

*Ans*.: Each person may claim a “fully adequate” number of basic rights and liberties, so long as these claims are consistent with everyone else having a claim to the same rights and liberties.

1. State Rawls’s second Principle of Justice.

*Ans*.: Any social and economic inequalities must satisfy two conditions: first, they are associated with positions in society that everyone has a fair and equal opportunity to assume; and second, they are “to be to the greatest benefit of the least-advantaged members of society”.

1. State Rawls’s Difference Principle.

*Ans*.: Rawls’s Difference Principle states that social and economic inequalities must be justified. The only way to justify a social or economic inequality is to show that its overall effect is to provide the most benefit to the least advantaged.

1. Rawls’s first Principle of Justice and the definition of Social Contract Theory are close to each other. However, there is a difference between them. What is this difference?

*Ans*.: Rawls's first principle of justice is stated from the point of view of rights and liberties, while the definition of Social Contract Theory is stated from the point of view of moral rules.

1. Evaluate the following scenario using the four workable ethical theories. In each case, state clearly the conclusion you may obtain from that theory, and show the argument which leads to that conclusion.

Alexis, a gifted high school student, wants to become a doctor. Because she comes from a poor family, she will need a scholarship in order to attend college. Some of her classes require students to do extra research projects in order to get an A. Her high school has a few older PCs, but there are always long lines of students waiting to use them during the school day. After school, she usually works at a part-time job to help support her family.

One evening Alexis visits the library of a private college a few miles from her family’s apartment, and she finds plenty of unused PCs connected to the Internet. She surreptitiously looks over the shoulder of another student to learn a valid login/password combination. Alexis returns to the library several times a week, and by using its PCs and printers she efficiently completes the extra research projects, graduates from high school with straight A’s, and gets a fullride scholarship to attend a prestigious university.

*Ans*.: From a Kantian perspective, Alexis did wrong when she made use of a student’s login and password to gain access to the library’s computers and printers. Alexis treated the student as a means to her end of getting access to the private college’s computers.

From an act utilitarian perspective, Alexis’ action was morally acceptable because the benefits to her were large, while the harms to others were small.

A rule utilitarian is likely to subscribe to the rule “Gaining access to another person’s private information is wrong”, since a great deal of harm can result if people were unable to protect confidential information. For this reason, Alexis’ action was wrong.

From the perspective of social contract theory, Alexis’ action was wrong because she violated the property rights of the private college when she used its computers without permission.

1. Evaluate the following scenario using the four workable ethical theories. In each case, state clearly the conclusion you may obtain from that theory, and show the argument which leads to that conclusion.

A United States based anti-spam organization *Keri* tries to get ISPs in an East Asian country to stop the spammers by protecting their mail servers. When this effort is unsuccessful, *Keri* puts the addresses of these ISPs on its “black list”. Many ISPs in the United States consult the black list and refuse to accept email from the blacklisted ISPs.

This action has two results. First, the amount of spam received by the typical email user in the United States drops by 25%. Second, tens of thousands of innocent computer users in the East Asian country are unable to send email to friends and business associates in the United States.

*Ans*.: From a Kantian perspective, Keri is treating the innocent computer users in the East Asian country as means to its end of reducing spam. That is wrong.

Millions of people are getting much less spam. The benefit to each of these persons is small, but meaningful. Tens of thousands of citizens of the East Asian country cannot send email to the United States. The harm to each of these persons is significant. From an act utilitarian perspective, concluding whether Keri’s action is right or wrong depends upon the weight you give to each person’s benefit or harm.

The challenge with this scenario is to determine whether any moral rules have been broken. In general, utilitarianism is comfortable with the notion that maximizing the overall good may mean that the majority gains a benefit while the minority suffers a harm.

The residents of the East Asian country had a reasonable expectation that their email would be delivered. By blacklisting the country’s ISPs, Keri encouraged American ISPs to refuse to forward email. From the perspective of social contract theory, Keri’s action was wrong.

1. Evaluate the following scenario using the four workable ethical theories. In each case, state clearly the conclusion you may obtain from that theory, and show the argument which leads to that conclusion.

In an attempt to deter speeders, the East Dakota State Police (EDSP) installs video cameras on all of its freeway overpasses. The cameras are connected to computers that can reliably detect cars traveling more than five miles per hour above the speed limit. These computers have sophisticated image recognition software that enables them to read license plate numbers and capture high-resolution pictures of vehicle drivers. If the picture of the driver matches the driver’s license photo of one of the registered owners of the car, the system issues a speeding ticket to the driver, complete with photo evidence. Six months after the system is put into operation, the number of people speeding on East Dakota freeways is reduced by 90 percent.

The FBI asks the EDSP for real-time access to the information collected by the video cameras. The EDSP complies with this request. Three months later, the FBI uses this information to arrest five members of a terrorist organization.

*Ans*.: The Kantian analysis depends upon the expectation of privacy people should have. The existence of the cameras is public knowledge. Nobody is being “used”, the action appears to be morally acceptable.

In this case the benefits seem to outweigh the harms. From an act utilitarian perspective, the actions of the East Dakota State Police are morally acceptable.

In this case the benefits seem to outweigh the harms. From a rule utilitarian perspective, the actions of the East Dakota State Police are morally acceptable.

How much privacy should a person have while operating a motor vehicle on a freeway? If a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy, then, from the perspective of social contract theory, the East Dakota State Police may have done something wrong if it secretly gave the FBI access to the information.

1. Evaluate the following scenario using the four workable ethical theories. In each case, state clearly the conclusion you may obtain from that theory, and show the argument which leads to that conclusion.

You are the senior software engineer at a start-up company developing an exciting new product that will allow salespeople to generate and email sales quotes and customer invoices from their smartphones.

Your company’s sales force has led a major corporation to believe your product will be available next week. Unfortunately, at this point the package still contains quite a few bugs. The leader of the testing group has reported that all of the known bugs appear to be minor, but it will take another month of testing for his team to be confident the product contains no catastrophic errors.

Because of the fierce competition in the smartphone software industry, it is critical that your company be the “first to market”. To the best of your knowledge, a well-established company will release a similar product in a few weeks. If its product appears first, your start-up company will probably go out of business.

*Ans*.: From a Kantian perspective, releasing the software without informing the potential users of the possible bugs would be wrong. However, if the purchaser were fully notified that the product was in beta test, a decision to release the product could be justified.

To do the act utilitarian analysis, we must examine the various courses of action and weigh, for each one, the potential benefits and harms to the purchasers of the software, and members of the start-up company.

As long as the company fully discloses the status of the product, it appears to be on safe ground according to the rule utilitarian perspective.

From the perspective of social contract theory, the purchaser of a product has a right to expect the manufacturer stands behind the quality of the product. In this case it would be wrong for the company to sell the product as if it were not completely debugged and 100 percent reliable. The company could begin shipping the software product to purchaser that understood the current state of the software.

1. Evaluate the following plagiarism scenario using the two formulations of Kant’s Categorical Imperative.

Carla is a single mother who is working hard to complete her college education while taking care of her daughter. Carla has a full-time job and is taking two evening courses per semester. If she can pass both courses this semester, she will graduate. She knows her child will benefit if she can spend more time at home.

One of her required classes is modern European history. In addition to the midterm and final examinations, the professor assigns four lengthy reports, which is far more than the usual amount of work required for a single class. Students must submit all four reports in order to pass the class.

Carla earns an “A” on each of her first three reports. At the end of the term, she is required to put in a lot of overtime where she works. She simply does not have time to research and write the final report. Carla uses the Web to identify a company that sells term papers. She purchases a report from the company and submits it as her own work.

*Ans*.: (1) Carla wants to be able to get credit for submitting the purchased report. A proposed moral rule is “I may claim academic credit for a report written by someone else”. If everyone followed this rule, reports would cease to be credible indicators of the students’ knowledge, and professor would not give academic credit for reports. Her proposed moral rule is self-defeating. According to the 1st formulation of Categorical Imperative, Carla’s action was wrong.

(2) By submitting other person’s work as her own, Carla treated her professor as a means to the end of passing the course. According to the 2nd formulation of Categorical Imperative, it was wrong for Carla to treat the professor as a grade-generating machine rather than a rational agent with whom she could have communicated her unusual circumstances.

**Chapter 3** Networked Communications

1. Define the term “spam”.

*Ans*.: Spam is defined as unsolicited, bulk email (according to the textbook).

1. Every object on the World Wide Web has a unique address called the URL. What does URL stand for?

*Ans*.: URL stands for Uniform Resource Locator.

1. Define the term “censorship”.

*Ans*.: The attempt to suppress public access to material considered offensive or harmful is called censorship.

1. What are the three forms of direct censorship?

*Ans*.: The three forms of direct censorship are “government monopolization”, “pre-publication review”, and “licensing and registration”.

1. Give two reasons why some publishers may censor themselves.

*Ans*.: (1) A publisher may censor itself in order to avoid persecution. (2) A publisher may censor itself in order to maintain good relations with government officials because information is often available only from government sources.

1. State Mill’s “Principle of Harm”.

*Ans*.:

1. What kind of right is the right to freedom of expression?

*Ans*.: Right to freedom of expression is a negative right. Right to freedom of expression is also a limited right, because it must be balanced against the public good. For example, cigarette advertisements are prohibited on TV.

1. What is sexting?

*Ans*.: The term “sexting” refers to sending text messages or emails that are sexually suggestive. Often sexting involves sending nude photos.

1. What is phishing?

*Ans*.: Phishing is a form of spamming in which the email messages are designed to trick victims into revealing sensitive financial information.

1. What is cyberbullying?

*Ans*.: Cyberbullying refers to bullying via the Internet or the phone system.

1. What is the traditional definition of addiction?

*Ans*.: The traditional definition of addiction is the persistent, compulsive use of a chemical substance, or drug, despite knowledge of its harmful long-term consequences.

1. What is the extended definition of addiction?

*Ans*.: Orzack and some other psychologists and psychiatrists have extended the definition of addiction to include any persistent, compulsive behavior that the addict recognizes to be harmful.

**Chapter 4** Intellectual Property

1. What is intellectual property? Give at least five examples of intellectual property.

*Ans*.: Intellectual property is any unique product of the human intellect that has commercial value. Examples of intellectual property are books, songs, movies, paintings, chemical formulas, and computer programs, etc.

1. Summarize John Locke’s explanation why there is a natural right to property.

*Ans*.: John Locke holds that when people remove something from Nature through their own labor, they have mixed their labor with it, and therefore they have a property right in that object.

1. Name the four ways of protecting intellectual property.

*Ans*.: Trade secrets, trademarks/service marks, patents, and copyrights.

1. What is the difference between a trademark and a trade secret?

*Ans*.: A trademark is a word, symbol, picture, sound, color, or smell used to identify a product. It is good when a company’s trademark becomes well known to the public. Examples of trademarks are Kleenex, McDonald’s Golden Arches, and Pepsi. A trade secret is a piece of intellectual property that is kept confidential. Examples of trade secrets are formulas, processes, proprietary designs, strategic plans, and customer lists.

1. What are the relative advantages and disadvantages of patents versus trade secrets?

*Ans*.: The advantage of a trade secret is that it does not expire. The disadvantage of a trade secret is that a company cannot prevent another company from attempting to reverse engineer the formula or process. The advantage of a patent is that the government gives the patent owner the exclusive right to the intellectual property. The disadvantage of a patent is that this right expires after 20 years.

1. When referring to copyrighted materials, what is meant by the term “fair use”?

*Ans*.: Fair use refers to those circumstances under which it is legal to reproduce a copyrighted work without permission.

1. What does the term “digital rights management” mean? Describe three different technologies that have been used or proposed for digital rights management.

*Ans*.: Digital rights management refers to any of a variety of actions owners of intellectual property stored in digital form may take to protect their rights. Examples of digital rights management include encryption, digital watermarking, and making CDs copy- proof.

1. What is a peer-to-peer network?

*Ans*.: A peer-to-peer network is a transient (temporary) network allowing computers running the same networking program to connect with each other and access files stored on each other’s hard drives.

1. What property makes the peer-to-peer network FastTrack more difficult to shut down than Napster?

*Ans*.: Napster relied on a single central server to mediate requests. FastTrack distributes the index of available files among many supernodes. Shutting down Napster simply requires shutting down the single central server. Shutting down FastTrack would require shutting down all of the supernodes. Hence FastTrack would be more difficult for the judicial system to shut down than Napster.

1. When describing a software license, what does the phrase “open source” mean?

*Ans*.: Open source refers to software in which the source code is distributed along with the executable program.

1. How has Linux affected the market for proprietary software?

*Ans*.: Linux has affected the market for proprietary software by putting price pressure on companies selling proprietary versions of Unix. It is providing an alternative to servers running the Windows operating system. Linux is also putting pressure on Microsoft and Apple, which sell proprietary operating systems for desktop computers.

1. Suppose your have created a picture and posted it on your web site. How can you allow people to download your picture for noncommercial purposes while retaining your copyright on the picture?

*Ans*.: I can select a Creative Commons license that allows people to download picture for noncommercial purposes, but still protects my copyright to the picture.

1. The short form *RIAA* appeared many times in Chapter 4. What does this short form stand for?

*Ans*.: *RIAA* stands for *Recording Industry Association of America*.

**Chapter 5** Information Privacy

1. Is privacy a negative right or a positive right?

*Ans*.: Privacy is a negative right because all I have to do to give you privacy is leave you alone.

1. What does it mean when we say that privacy is a prudential right?

*Ans*.: When we say privacy is a prudential right, we mean that granting people this right provides a net benefit to society. Hence it is prudent for a society to choose to give its members some privacy.

1. What is a public record? List at least five pieces of information about a person that are public records.

*Ans*.: A public record contains information reported to a government agency for the purpose of informing the public. Here are a few examples of public records that may exist about a person: legal name, address, list of real estate owned, property tax records, political party, date of birth, date of marriage, date of divorce, and date of death.

1. What privacy concerns have been raised with the increasing use of RFID tags?

*Ans*.: If consumers cannot detach or disable the RFID tags associated with items they have purchased, then information about their possessions may be collected by other people with RFID scanners.

1. What is data mining?

*Ans*.: Data mining means searching through multiple databases looking for patterns or relationships in the records.

1. What is collaborative filtering? Who uses it?

*Ans*.: Collaborative filtering is a way of helping an individual wade through a large amount of choices and focus in on the best ones. It uses information about the preferences of a large number of people to predict those items an individual is more likely to like. On-line retailers and movie-rental sites use collaborative filtering to make recommendations.

1. Explain the difference between an opt-in policy and an opt-out policy.

*Ans*.: An opt-in policy requires a consumer to explicitly give permission before an organization can share information it has collected about the individual. An opt-out policy allows an organization to share information it has collected about a consumer unless the individual explicitly forbids it.

1. Give three examples of how data mining is being used on information collected from social networks.

*Ans*.: Cell phone companies are using data mining on social networks to identify “influencers” and offer them incentives to keep them loyal. Police are using data mining on social networks to identify where big parties are happening and deploy officers accordingly. Banks are using data mining to evaluate the riskiness of loans.

1. Evaluate the following scenario using (a) the first formulation of Kant’s Categorical Imperative, (b) Rule Utilitarianism, (c) Social Contract Theory.

Jim and Peggy Sullivan are parents of a baby girl. Both of them have fill-time and highly satisfying careers in the computer field. They visited numerous day care facilities, but the ones they liked the best had no openings. For this reason, they decided to hire a personal nanny. After interviewed a half dozen nannies, the Sullivans hired one of them.

Friends of Peggy told her horrible stories about abusive nannies, and they all recommended a software program called LiveSecurityWatch. Jim and Peggy purchased LiveSecurityWatch and installed it on a laptop computer placed in the family room. With the system in place, Jim and Peggy could use their workplace computers to see and hear how the nanny interacts with their baby. The nanny had no idea that the Sullivans’ computer was being used as a surveillance system.

*Ans*.: (a) Consider the morality of acting according to the rule: “An employer may secretly monitor the work of an employee who works with vulnerable people”. If every employer secretly monitors the work of employees who work with vulnerable people, then those employees would have no expectation of privacy, and it would be impossible for employers to secretly monitor their work. Hence this rule is self-defeating. It follows from the first formulation of Kant’s Categorical Imperative that it is wrong to act according to this rule.

(b) If everyone monitored nannies, it would not remain a secret for long. Under these circumstances, nannies would be on their best behavior in front of camera, and this might reduce child abuse and increase parents’ peace of mind. On the other hand, the harms of the monitoring would be significant in terms of increasing the stress and reducing the job satisfaction of child care providers. These negative aspects of the job could result in higher turnover rate, and less experienced nannies would provide lower-quality care to the babies. The harms appear to be greater than the benefits. Hence it is wrong to secretly monitor their nannies.

(c) It is reasonable for the nanny to expect privacy when taking care of the baby inside the Sullivans’ home. Hence the Sullivans’ decision to secretly monitor the nanny is wrong because it violated her right to privacy.

**Chapter 6** Privacy and the Government

1. What are the four categories in Solove’s taxonomy of privacy? Give examples of activities conducted by the U.S. government agencies falling into each of these categories.

*Ans*.: “Information collection refers to activities that gather personal information”. An example of information collection by a government agency would be educational records held by a public university.

“Information processing refers to activities that store, manipulate, and use personal data that has been collected”. An example of information processing would be making a prediction about the number of graduates who are going to fall behind in repaying their federal student loans.

“Information dissemination refers to activities that spread personal information”. An example of information dissemination is when a state government releases a list of felons who are ineligible to vote.

“Invasion refers to activities that intrude upon a person’s daily life”. An example of a government activity in this category is requiring those who wish to purchase a gun to have a criminal background check and to register their gun.

1. Give two examples of the U.S. Census Bureau illegally revealing census data to other federal agencies.

*Ans*.: During World War I, the Census Bureau provided the names and addresses of young men to the military, which was searching for draft resistors. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Census Bureau provided the Justice Department with information about the general location of Japanese-Americans. The Army used this information to round up Japanese-Americans and send them to internment camps.

1. Great Britain leads the world in the deployment of closed-circuit television cameras.
2. Provide two examples of covert surveillance by the U.S. government.

*Ans*.: Wiretapping and the use of hidden microphones (bugs).

1. How did Operation Shamrock begin? What abuses arose from the continuation of Operation Shamrock?

*Ans*.: Operation Shamrock began during World War II, when the U.S. government decided it needed to monitor all telegram traffic entering and leaving the United States, presumably as a way of combating espionage. Eventually the Johnson and Nixon administrations used this surveillance infrastructure to monitor the activities of American citizens opposed to the Vietnam war, including Martin Luther King, and actress Jane Fonda.

1. The Fair Credit Reporting Act says that negative information must be kept for only 7 years. What are two exceptions to this guideline?

*Ans*.: Information about criminal convictions may be kept indefinitely, and bankruptcy information may be held for 10 years.

1. How does the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act help consumers verify the accuracy of their credit reports?

*Ans*.: The Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act helps consumers verify the accuracy of their credit reports by giving them the right to request a free copy of their credit report once a year from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus.

1. What is the purpose of the Freedom of Information Act?

*Ans*.: The purpose of the Freedom of Information Act is to ensure that the public has access to the records of the U.S. government.

1. Name two important exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act that allow the government to withhold information.

*Ans*.: The Freedom of Information Act has nine exemptions, but two are particularly important. The U.S. government does not have to release documents if they contain trade secrets or other confidential financial or commercial information. The U.S. government does not have to release documents related to law enforcement investigations.

1. How did the Federal Trade Commission reduce unwanted telemarketing?

*Ans*.: The Federal Trade Commission reduced unwanted telemarketing by creating the National Do Not Call Registry.

1. What is the purpose of the CALM Act?

*Ans*.: The purpose of the CALM (Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation) Act is to ensure that television commercials are broadcast at the same volume as the television programs they are interrupting.

**Plagiarism**

APPENDIX

***A***

AN ETHICAL ANALYSIS OF A SCENARIO INVOLVING PLAGIARISM APPEARS IN SECTION 2.6.2. This appendix provides a much more complete picture of what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

Consequences of Plagiarism

According to the Council of Writing Program Administrators (WPA), “plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source” [1]. The consequences of plagiarism can be severe. Newspaper reporters and college professors have lost their jobs because they plagiarized the work of others [2, 3]. Colleges and universities view plagiarism as a form of cheating. A few years ago at the University of Virginia, 48 students either quit or were expelled for plagiarism [4].

The vast amount of information freely available on the Internet, the power of search engines, and the cut-and-paste capability of contemporary computer programs have made it easier than ever to commit plagiarism. Of course, Web search engines can also make it easy for teachers to detect plagiarism [5].

Types of Plagiarism

You are plagiarizing if you deliberately do any of the following:

* Copy the words of another without both (1) putting the copied text in quotation marks and (2) citing the source
* Paraphrase the words of another without citing the source
* Incorporate the figures or drawings of another person without crediting the source
* Include facts that are not common knowledge without citing the source
* Use another person’s ideas or theories without giving that person credit

Guidelines for Citing Sources

**Common knowledge** means information that is available in many places and known to a large number of people. For example, it is common knowledge that Delaware was the first state to ratify the United States Constitution. You do not have to cite a source when presenting common knowledge.

However, you *should* cite a source when you present facts that are not common knowledge. For example, it is not common knowledge that the percentage of college freshmen in the United States interested in majoring in computer science dropped by more than 60 percent between 2000 and 2004 [6].

You must cite a source if you present another person’s interpretation of the facts, whether or not you acknowledge the person by name. For example, Cass Sunstein argues that information technology may weaken democracy by allowing people to filter out news that contradicts their view of the world [7]. If you repeat someone else’s idea, you must cite where you found it.

How to Avoid Plagiarism

Always put quotation marks around text you have obtained from another source, and write down enough information about the source that you can cite it properly. Do this when you are collecting your notes, so that when you are writing your paper, you will not forget that the words are a direct quotation or whom you are quoting.

When you are paraphrasing the work of another, read over the material, then put it aside before you begin writing. That will help ensure you are using your own words to express the ideas. Check your paraphrase against the source document. Make sure you have not distorted the original meaning. Whenever you have used a phrase from another person’s work, you must put the phrase in quotation marks. Always cite the source of the ideas you are paraphrasing, even if there are no direct quotations.

Finally, remember to cite the sources of illustrations and figures that you reproduce.

Misuse of Sources

The WPA definition of plagiarism emphasizes that it is the *deliberate* attempt to conceal the source of the words or ideas. This aligns with our definition of ethics as being focused on the *voluntary* moral choices people make. If a person has no intention of deceiving, but fails to cite sources or use quotation marks correctly, that person’s actions constitute misuse of sources.

Additional Information

For more information, read “Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices”, which is the principal source document for this appendix [1].

References

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