

### Ethics Assignment #7: PRISM

**Due: Thursday, 10.20.22, by 1:00 pm**

#### Background

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The lecture on Thursday will cover whistleblowing. We'll use whistleblower Edward Snowden's disclosure of NSA's PRISM surveillance program as our case study. We'll also consider a hypothetical case.

#### Learning Goals

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By the end of the lecture, you will:

- have a better understanding of when to blow the whistle
- have a better understanding of why you should blow the whistle
- be able to apply De George's guidelines for whistleblowing

#### Assignment

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1. Read the Wikipedia page on PRISM ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PRISM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PRISM)) through Sec. 3.1.4, i.e., "Responses to disclosures, United States government." Of course, you're free to read more.
2. Learn more about Edward Snowden by watching interviews he had with the Guardian, one of the first media outlets to whom he disclosed information about PRISM, in 2013 (12 min): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hLjuVyllrs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hLjuVyllrs) and with Trevor Noah, in which he talks about his book "in 2019 (16 min): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=PArFP7ZJrtg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PArFP7ZJrtg). It's not required reading, but if you're interested, the [Wikipedia page on Snowden](#) is interesting.
3. Write short responses to the following questions:
  - a. Look at the slides on PRISM posted on the PRISM Wikipedia page. Based on the article and the slides, do you think Snowden did the right thing by disclosing the existence of PRISM? Why or why not? Cite at least one SECEPP clause to support your position. How did disclosing PRISM help or harm the public?
  - b. Do you think PRISM is legal, ethical, or a necessary evil? Why or why not?
  - c. Who, if anyone, benefitted from Snowden's whistleblowing? How did they benefit?
  - d. Imagine you are in a position in which you discover something harmful or unethical happening at your company. What would factor into your decision on whether to blow the whistle?

Submit a pdf of your work via Canvas by 1:00 pm on Thursday, 10.20.22.

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