Vision Statement Assignment

The vision statement is done in two iterations. The first version allows you to collect your thoughts and get feedback. At the end of the first project you'll revise your vision statement, using the feedback and what you learned from the first project. The more detailed your first attempt is, will make the revision easier and less time-consuming. Yes, project proposals are part marketing. You're trying to get support, attract funding, or whatever. It is easier to sell your idea if you provide more details. And yes, make it snappy and snazzy! After all, someone else gets to actually build it. ☺

Overview

Your Vision Statement is a document describing a software system that you believe would improve our world. Your Vision Statement can focus on any major world problem that you like. Examples include pollution, poverty, terrorism, fascism, disease, natural disasters, racism, etc.

Your Vision Statement can describe any kind of system that you believe would help to solve some aspect of that problem. For example, if you decide to focus on poverty, you might propose a "web spider" system that sifts through millions of websites looking for the contact information of job training centers, then presents that information in a categorized fashion on a searchable map. (That way, poor people could use a web browser at a public library to look up job centers where they can get some training.)

All the students will get to vote on which Vision Statements would be most interesting to use for class projects this term, and the authors of the most popular Vision Statements will receive extra credit and get to be the "customer" for a team who designs the envisioned system. Note that this means *all vision statements will be publicly posted on a website.* So only put stuff in the vision if it's ok for the world to read it.

You will never have to actually implement your proposed system. So dream big! But on the other hand, you need to imagine a system that probably could be built, if you had infinite time and money. So don't propose a system that works based on "magic." You need to have at least some idea of how the system might be constructed. Remember that if you propose a system that can't possibly be designed, then nobody is going to vote for your idea. And remember that you will need to direct the group and if you chose tech that doesn't exist the group is going to suffer.

Writing your vision statement

To write your vision statement, fill in the parts of the template on the next page. Simply answer each question with a single sentence (for the initial version of your vision statement due at the end of Week 1), then add more sentences to flesh out each answer (for the updated version due at the end of Week 6). This is the absolute minimum requirement for the initial proposal. The final version must be fleshed out to have an introduction (discussion of the problem and proposed solution), how the solution would be implemented, and a conclusion to revisit the features, viability, and utility of your application. You can think of the final vision statement as a research report. You can use the template as section headers, but notice the requirement to have paragraphs providing the information. In particular provide details of the proposed technology. **Provide references!!**

Please remember the provided template is not a form! The items are placeholders for the suggested information. Your concept may require a different presentation. If so, take advantage of it. You can always check with a grader if you have questions or concerns. Your proposal may have more than 3 features. Great! Still rank and discuss them. You splendriffic idea only has 2 features. Great. Discuss them and outline why you don't need more. And don't create features just to make 3. We need to believe they're needed!

Grading

Here are the grading criteria for the **updated** (expanded or final) vision statement:

- 20 points: does the vision statement demonstrate knowledge about a world problem?
- 35 points: does the vision statement demonstrate critical thinking in terms of proposing a solution for the stated problem?
- 30 points: does the vision statement include all of the required sections?
- 10 points: does the vision statement provide a reference for all quotes, images, and other materials borrowed from elsewhere?
- 5 points: does the vision statement contain 2000 words or more?

Note that the grading is IN ADDITION TO extra credit awarded for vision statements that students select for project work.

-- The last 5 points should be a gimme. If you provide all the requested information AND provide enough information to indicate your solution is feasible you should easily have more than 2000 words. We also have tools to do word counts so don't use ridiculous font sizes or crazy margins to increase the page count.

It may not be obvious in my course materials but I can be very concise in describing ideas and concepts. I'm wordy to close apparent loopholes found by previous students. ☺ If you are having trouble with finding 2000 words contact me. Maybe your concept is too simple? Maybe you're not providing sufficient detail? Maybe you too can phrase it very concisely (or alternatively rely too much on referenced material)? I can look at it and if necessary approve the lower word count.

Vision statement questions (essentially a template for your vision statement)

What is the title of your vision statement?

What is your name?

What is your ONID username?

What world problem are you concerned about?

What is one statistic or quote showing that this is a major problem? (Be sure to cite your source.)

What is one anecdote about how this problem might possibly play out in real life for somebody?

Within this world problem, what is one subproblem that bothers you?

What is one quote illustrating that this subproblem is important?

What is one anecdote about how this subproblem might possibly play out in real life for somebody?

What is a second anecdote about how this subproblem might possibly play out in real life?

What is one possible software system that could help to solve this problem?

What are the three most important features that this helpful software system should have?

For the 1st of these three features, why is this feature important?

What is some sort of hypothetical example about how a person would use the 1st feature?

For the 2nd of these three features, why is this feature important?

What is some sort of hypothetical example about how a person would use the 2nd feature?

For the 3rd of these three features, why is this feature important?

What is some sort of hypothetical example about how a person would use the 3rd feature?

Which of these three features is most important? Which is least important/optional? Why?

How would you ensure that your system is economically viable?

How would the world be a better place if the system was actually implemented?

What are your references? (On each line, put a bracketed number such as [4] and then the reference. It is a good idea to leave blank lines between the references.)