

# Group Presentation Assignment

As a group, you will develop a creative assignment, in which you will apply what we have learned in this class to a new setting. Your assignment should be focused on a discussion of ethics of some use of data.

Example uses of data you might consider focusing on, or types of projects you might consider:

- Discussion of ethics of any large-scale use of data
- Ethical analysis of your year-long team project.
- Audit of some public-facing algorithm for fairness, bias, etc.
- Proposal of a technical solution to e.g. privacy issues in business data analysis
- Empirical test of personalization algorithms for ethical issues
- Ethical discussion of a new research paper (empirical or methodological)
- Proposal of a practical framework for resolving conflicts between ethical principles in business analytics
- Other creative ideas you might have (discuss with me)

The main deliverable will be a presentation on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Each group will have a total of 25 minutes to use for presentation and discussion to divide as you see fit. However, I would recommend that your prepared presentation is at least 15 minutes long to allow me to get a sufficient sense of the work you did on the project. If you don't want to allot time for discussion and debate, then you may use the full 25 minutes for presentation.

Your presentation should include explicit reference to ethical perspectives, principles, and objectives that we discussed in class, in addition to any additional perspectives you wish to bring in. My expectation is that you will discuss your topic in light of all of the ethical concepts that might be relevant: even if they aren't all important, there are probably multiple ways to think about the ethics of your topic, and I would like to see evidence that you can think about things from those different perspectives.

Your presentation should draw on technical analyses if appropriate for your topic (e.g. if you are doing an audit or empirical study), but this is not strictly required for all projects.

In addition to the presentation in class, please submit your project in document form (could be a Jupyter notebook, MS Word etc.). This need not be a formal essay, but it should communicate your conclusions and evidence clearly, without you needing to explain it verbally (out loud) as well. Ideally, this would be something you could include in your portfolio of work. On this written document, please clearly indicate which parts of the project were done by whom.

## **Expectations (how big of a project is this?)**

There is not a lot of time to develop a large project, but there is enough time to develop some new analysis of a topic we didn't focus on in class. As a guideline, aim for at least the following:

- Include multiple ethical concepts. For example, you might consider the difference between a consequentialist v. deontological view of your topic. Or, if your focus is on fairness (for example), try thinking about privacy, respect for autonomy, too.
  - o If you are having trouble thinking of another ethical viewpoint that is relevant, try considering the ethics of \*not\* using the data that way, or of some alternative. You

might also consider trying to determine if there is a sensible way to regulate this use of data.

- Include quantitative analysis if appropriate. If you do use quantitative analyses and you can use visualizations to communicate your conclusions, please do so.
- You may have ethical issues that depend on an empirical analysis that you can't do because of time or data availability (e.g. in studying echo chambers due to personalization algorithms, you might want to know if there are really echo chambers or misinformation on Facebook. If there aren't, it goes against the argument that the newsfeed is interfering with a healthy democracy). In this case, please be sure to say how you *would* study this if it were possible. What evidence would you look for to answer your question?

## GRADING

### Overall Grade

I will be grading based on the final product. Specifically, I will consider:

- Your demonstrated ability to analyze your topic from multiple ethical perspectives (45%)
- Your use of evidence or logical reasoning to make your case to the audience (45%)
- Your presentation skills (10%)
  - o Note that your presentation skills also determine how well I can assess the first two parts of the grade and thus are extremely important beyond this 10%. If your presentation is not clear, I will not be able to understand and evaluate your evidence or logic, for example.
  - o This 10% is for presentation skills that will be expected in a professional presentation, such as speaking clearly and ensuring that everyone can hear you, responding to audience questions graciously and respectfully (even in response to problematic questions). NOTE: this year on Zoom, expectations are different than they would be if we were in person.

### Division of the grade among teammates

I am likely to give every member of the team the same grade. However, in some teams, collaboration breaks down and certain individuals either don't contribute or prevent their teammates from contributing effectively (e.g. by doing everything themselves and not letting others take part).

Therefore, I will ask you to evaluate each of your teammates in terms of their contributions to the team, considering:

- organizing the team or assembling the final product
- contributing to the team discussion of the topic
- contributing intellectually
- respecting other teammates contributions and creating a team culture of respect and collaboration

For each teammate, I will ask you to assess their overall contributions (understanding that people might focus on different aspects of the project). I will ask you to classify each teammate at one of the following overall levels of contribution:

- Teammate was an exceptional contributor (they went notably beyond the other teammates in creating the final product and in fostering productive collaboration)
- Teammate was an appropriate contributor (they could reasonably be seen as playing their part in the project)
- Teammate was an inadequate or problematic contributor (they were notably passive, absent, or harmful to the team collaboration)

If there is general agreement that a team member was exceptional or inadequate/problematic, I will consider boosting/penalizing the grade of that person.