The Ethical Project – Overview and Grading Rubric   Spring 2022

Purpose:

- The goal is to have each student dive deeply into a company, business or organization (from now on referred to as your CBO) and topic that presents a particular interest for a study of tech ethics. Think about something you have personal interest in, or a company you can see yourself working at. Or, choose an organization that deals with data issues, privacy concerns, user tracking, predicting trends or that presents a particular problem or benefit to the world. The overall aim is to allow students the opportunity to become experts in one small area of interest, not to learn everything related to a chosen topic. I will be posting examples of appropriate topics on discord during the week Topic Submissions are open.

General Requirements:

- Research paper that explores the relationship between chosen CBO, topic and a specific area of applied ethics
- 5 pages minimum, double-spaced
- 6 sources minimum, annotated in APA style (more direction will be shared on BeachBoard at appropriate time)
- Brief presentation to the class, via Zoom and a visual media of your choice, at the end of the semester. 3-4 minutes max per person. Students must share their computer screen to make use of this visual media. (more direction will be shared on BeachBoard at appropriate time)

Grading (100 points overall):

10 points	Topic Submission - - -	(due 3/10 6:59pm)
15 points	Initial Sources - - -	(due 3/24 6:59pm)
20 points	Initial Research - - -	(due 4/14 6:59pm)
40 points	Final Research - - -	(due 4/28 6:59pm)
15 points	Sharing is Caring Day Presentation	(5/4 & 5/5 during class, during finals week meeting)

Grading for Topic Submission (10 points):

Simply include your CBO of choice, a topic to focus on, and some examples of what specific things you might explore
- This will be submitted in a text box on BeachBoard – no file needed
- All topics must be approved by your professor
- Late submissions or changes to CBO/topic will result in point deduction of 2 points per day, for up to 5 days
- Submissions more than 5 days late will be accepted, but will not be awarded points

Grading for Initial Sources (15 points):

Must have at least 3 annotated sources (more direction will be shared on BeachBoard at appropriate time).
- 5 points (1st source), 5 points (2nd source), 5 points (3rd source)
- Additional sources welcome, but not worth extra points
- 3 Initial Sources must have annotations (see below)
- Late submissions will result in point deduction of 3 points per day, for up to 5 days
- Submissions more than 5 days late will be accepted, but will not be awarded points

3 of your Initial Sources must be included and used in your final research
- Initial Sources that go unused in your final research will result in overall project deduction of 5 points each
- If you submit more than 3 sources today you need to identify and annotate your main 3 Initial Sources for full credit

An annotated source includes a short, purposeful summary of why you chose it, and must include the following:
- Written annotations for each source   https://libguides.calstatela.edu/WriteAndCite/AB
  - Proper annotations should include at least 4 sentences that:
    - Explain why this source is an authority and appropriate for use in your research
    - Identify the source's intended audience
    - Compare the source with others you are citing
    - Explain what you are using from this source, or how it has helped your research

Feel free to use this website to help you cite your sources in proper APA style   https://www.citationmachine.net/apa

Grading for Initial Research (20 points):

Must have at least 2 pages completed (double-spaced), with a works cited page including at least the 3 annotated sources from your Initial Sources submission above.

- Research should be one solid, completed chunk of your paper, not just sections of completed work.
- Research you submit today must be included in your Final Research
- Research should include new information – you do not need to define terms and ideas that we have already learned in class – this research is about you learning something new, independently of class material

- Must include annotations for at least 3 sources used (you may use as many sources as you wish, but only need to annotate 3 of them in your Initial Research)
- APA style citation guide   https://csulb.libguides.com/style/APA
- All information you use from your sources must be cited as in text citations
- In text citations should follow the APA format, referenced in the previous section
- Information that needs to be cited includes:
  o Direct quotes
  o Paraphrasing of the author (even if you use your own words, you are using their ideas and research)
  o Factual or research-driven data that someone else curated
  o Ideas that were new to you and helped drive your project forward

Written Length
double spaced – this should be an unbroken part of your paper that appears the same way in your Final Research

0.5 – 1 page	1 – 1.5 pages	1.5 – 2 pages	2 pages or more
1	4	7	10

Citations and Annotations
APA citations, with proper annotated sources

Citations and sources not represented in submission or difficult to identify	Citations and sources somewhat represented in submission, with some problems	Citations and sources clearly represented in submission
1	6	10

Grading for Final Research (40 points):

Must be at least 5 pages of writing (double-spaced), with a works cited page including at least 6 annotated sources
- Must include the written portion of your Initial Research
- Must properly cite the 3 sources from your Initial Sources
- In text citations and annotations should follow the APA format, referenced in the previous sections
- Must include annotations for at least 6 sources used (you may use as many sources as you wish, but only need to annotate 6 of them in your Final Research)

Logical Organization
how well you organized your research, including originality of information - I don't need to be learning anything I already know from our class lectures and discussions… you should be bringing new information to the table here

Little logical organization (very difficult to follow)	some logical organization (difficult to follow)	average logical organization (easy to follow, at times)	good logical organization (easy to follow)	excellent logical organization (very easy to follow)
2	4	6	8	10

Ethical Subject Knowledge/Relevance
I mean… it is an ethics course… I want you to focus on relevant ethical issues related to your chosen CBO and topic

little grasp of ethical relevance	some grasp of ethical relevance	average grasp of ethical relevance	good grasp of ethical relevance	excellent grasp of ethical relevance
2	4	6	8	10

Resources
APA citations, with annotation

3 or fewer relevant resources cited/used, with annotation	3 relevant resources cited/used, with annotation	4 relevant resources cited/used, with annotation	5 relevant resources cited/used, with annotation	6 or more relevant resources cited/used, with annotation
2	3	4	7	10

Written Length
double spaced

Less than 3 pages	3 – 4 pages	4 – 4.5 pages	4.5 – 4.9 pages	5 pages or more
2	4	6	8	10

Grading for Sharing is Caring Day Presentation (15 points):

During your 3-4 minute Sharing is Caring time, you'll be required to share your computer's screen and turn on your microphone (not your camera) and give a brief talk-through of the major things you learned from this research project. This requires some sort of visual media, such as:

- a short PowerPoint presentation (appropriate for 3-4 minutes)
- an infographic, or set of graphics that you create
- a short animation (hey, some of us are really creative and into that stuff)
- a short video that you create (more power to you, I guess – but you will still have to speak live over it)

Whatever you choose, you will need to use your voice. Yes, turn on your mic and talk us through the things you learned. If you plan to be on campus for this, it will require finding an appropriate space on campus where you can speak during this class, when called on. I will work with students to try and secure special rooms for you to gather during these times, if needed.

Anything you use must be created by you, or properly cited at the end of your presentation. Seriously. Own your research, but give credit where credit is due.

If you do this just right, it should not be difficult. You should practice for length - I'll be cutting people off at 4 minutes, so we can get through everybody. No joke.

I will be calling on students randomly, so you do need to be at both of these meetings, and you do need to be prepared ahead of time