Term Paper Template

By Nathaniel Welch

CSC 300: Professional Responsibilities

Dr. Clark Turner

January 19, 2011

Abstract

5% One or two sentences of context about your issue. Provide your focus question. Mention one or two relevant arguments. Briefly explain your conclusion and why it is proper ethically. Should be no more than one paragraph (100 words max). [6]

Blarghity blargh blargh. [4]

Contents

1   Facts

- General context of the issue

- Only facts that clearly point to the issue/question at hand (you may add additional facts as needed in your analysis that aren't in your facts section)

- The facts section should end up leading the reader to the question you are about to ask them (a controversy or a case ending poorly is a great way to do this).

- Should not indicate anything about your answer to the question or hint at any particular conclusion. [6]

2   Research Question

One sentence (one question, not compound). Should be focused on a particular case. Should have a determinable yes or no answer that you will draw based on your research. Should be followed (separately) by a paragraph explaining the importance of this question and its relevance to software engineers (why should we care?). [6]

3   Arguments For

3.1   Arg 1

The first argument for your topic

3.2   Arg 2

The second argument for your topic...

4   Arguments Against

4.1   Arg 1

The first argument against your topic.

4.2   Arg 2

The second argument against your topic...

Requirements for the Arguments section(s) (from the handout)

Summarize the main arguments others have made about the answers to your focus question. Provide the state of research on your focus question. Must be referenced appropriately. All statements must be a summary of the source's arguments, devoid of your opinions or biases on the issue. Must (separately) cover arguments on both sides of your issue - that is, those that answer your focus question affirmatively and those that answer negatively. [6]

5   Analysis

- Should start with a paragraph showing why the SE Code applies to your focus question.

- Sub-headings to delineate your lines of reasoning are required.

- All arguments must be thoroughly supported by reason and logic.

- All claims must be supported by reputable primary sources and formal data.

- SE Code must be central to the argumentation

- You should have 2-4 distinct sections of the SE code utilized in your analysis
    * If section 1 is central to your argument, it is only one of the code sections covered. Do not rely solely on section one. Ex: 1.01-1.04 will not suffice for all of your SE Code based arguments and citations.
    * If discussion about public good is used, there must be data to support it. Simply writing it benefits the general public because it would make many people happy is insufficient.
- Utilitarian and deontological analysis must be present but not be separate sections
- Class reading must be referenced as appropriate (at least one paper must be used as the basis of one of the arguments).
- There should be a clear cohesiveness to the analysis such that each argument logically flows into the next and gently directs the reader toward your conclusion while implicitly providing answers to any doubts they may have through logic and data.

- Opinions ¿ dev/null. [6]

Look at Jason Anderson's how to write a term paper (currently linked as the paper template) for information on how to write this section. An example of possible sections follows

5.1 Why the SE Code Applies

5.2 Argument 1

5.2.1 Code principle 1 that applies

5.2.2 Code principle 2 that applies

5.3 Argument 2

5.3.1 Code principle 1 that applies

5.3.2 Code principle 2 that applies

Remember to weave the class papers and other ethical systems arguments in with the se code arguments they shouldn't be separate sections.

6 Conclusion

The conclusion is a summary of your entire analysis. It should reiterate the answer your audience has been forming while reading your analysis. New information should never be introduced in your conclusion. [5]

References

[1] "Bibtex." [Online]. Available: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BibTeX#Bibliographic_information_file

   Useful in figuring out how to create the .bib file

[2] "Ieeeannot: A latex ieee annotated bibliography style template." [Online]. Available: http://www.barik.net/sw/ieee/

   the web page where you can download the IEEE annotate style to allow annotations in a bibliography. Put it in the same folder as the .bib and .tex files.

[3] "Latex/bibliography management." [Online]. Available: http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX/Bibliography_Management

   Useful in figuring out the bibliography structure in tex

[4] "Latex/document structure/table of contents." [Online]. Available: http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX/Document_Structure#Table_of_contents

   Good info for customizing the table of contents

[5] J. Anderson, "How to write a se code argument / term paper template," May 2010. [Online]. Available: http://true-reality.net/csc300archive/documents/paperInst.tex

   Used this to get started making the template.

[6] C. S. Turner, "Term paper specifications," Spring 2010. [Online]. Available: http://true-reality.net/csc300/resources/assets/Term\%20Paper\%20Spec\%20S10.pdf

   This source was used to get the requirements for each section of the template.