CIS150 - Fundamentals of Information Systems
Spring Semester - 2016

Essay 1 - Personal Ethical Dilemma *(25 points)*

This initial assignment is intended to be done individually by <u>each</u> student, not collaboratively. To begin with, reflect on an ethical dilemma that you have faced in the past, either in your personal or professional life. Understand that personal ethical dilemmas are part of the challenges we face in everyday life. Sometimes we may not make the very best choices, especially when looking back from a position of greater knowledge, skills and experiences. Business professionals often face difficult situations that demand careful consideration and appropriate decision making. The "wrong" decision in a business environment may spell disaster for your career and even result in the loss of a job. Keep in mind that an ethical dilemma usually arises when two values or norms are in conflict. It is a predicament in which an individual must resolve whether an action that might benefit one or more of the stakeholders involved may be considered to be unethical. *Note that more recent interpretations of Title IX and/or The Clery Act statutes have made faculty "responsible employees" who are mandated to report alleged acts of sexual harassment, a sexual crime, or gender discrimination to Human Resources.*

The key objective of this assignment is to reflect upon a personal ethical dilemma, then respond to each of the following:

- Briefly introduce (2-3 sentences) the nature of the personal, school, or business situation that you have faced
- Write a paragraph or two describing when and where the situation took place, who was involved, and what was going on in the environment at that time - this will most likely be in past tense, so check your verb endings!
- Describe in some detail what the ethical dilemma or issue is and why this situation is a problem for you - discuss the values or norms that may be in conflict with each other
- List the various stakeholders who were possibly impacted by the ethical dilemma and describe their involvement
- Discuss 2-3 possible alternatives for resolving this ethical dilemma, even if you didn't consider them at the time - be sure to include your thoughts on the tradeoffs (pros/cons , moral calculus, etc.) for each of the stakeholders
- Finally, describe how you solved the ethical issue at hand - this should reflect your action(s) to the situation and opinion as to how ethical (use <u>at least one</u> of the *Ten Guidelines for Making Ethical Decisions*) and effective it was
- Conclude with a paragraph (2-3 sentences) in which you restate the issue and the solution you choose and why

Begin your essay by creating an outline centered on the items noted above, and then organize your thoughts before you actually begin writing. Develop your summary using full sentences organized into paragraphs, beginning with background information about the issue. Feel free to be somewhat creative, yet factual, in your thoughts and writing! Keep in mind that your responses will be confidential and that your grade for this assignment will not reflect upon your judgment, but rather how well you respond to each of the items noted above. If you feel uncomfortable discussing an ethical dilemma that you have been faced with in your school, work, or personal life - or perhaps can't think of a good example to write about - then send your professor an email <u>at least</u> one week before the due date for an <u>alternative</u> for this assignment.

Your essay must include a cover page somewhat similar to the one shown directly below - feel free to use just a bit of editorial license! Be sure to replace the text and italicized parenthesis with the requested information. Also, provide a page header with the assignment title and page number along with a footer which has the course/section and due date. Be sure to formally cite any references you used. *If desired, you may submit this document to your professor on paper.*

Essay 1 - Personal Ethical Dilemma

Name: *(Student Name)*
Course: CIS150-xx *(section)*
Date: *(Due Date)*

The body of your response should be at least one (1), but no more than two (2) full pages (not including a cover page) of content. It must be done using a Segoe UI or Calibri font in a size 11, with line spacing of 1.5, and 1" margins all the way around. Be sure to save your completed document with a file name that begins with your first and middle initial(s), then your last name, followed by a dash, and finally the text string "Essay-1" before the ".docx" file extension associated with Microsoft Word 2007 (or more recent). Do <u>not</u> convert your final draft document into Adobe PDF format. Points will be deducted for any material spelling or grammar issues. Lastly, post your completed file into Blackboard under the ***Submit Work Here*** folder for grading purposes by the due date and time as noted in the *Course Schedule* as well as in ***My Grades***.