Our group believes that Mr. Snowden’s actions were wrongful. Our principle reason for this was that his actions directly crippled the NSA’s ability to do its job1, a direct result of leaking information about the global surveillance operation, causing that operation to be very limited in use, due to its reliance on secrecy. We believe that his actions were detrimental to the NSA. A program that allowed us to stop terrorists, while at the same time having a negligible impact on innocent people. We compared it to airport security; security checks for everyone, and sifting through personal belongings, much like what the NSA does online. Due to this small sacrifice of personal liberty, we are able to reduce airline terrorism and crime significantly. Another reason for our decision was that the benefits of his leak’s were miniscule. The NSA will have or be working on another network. Mr. Snowden’s leak only halted the NSA for a short time, and while it raised public awareness, very few people care enough now to try to keep the NSA from getting more information. Mr. Snowden’s leak was a futile effort. One more reason we decided that Snowden was wrong was that his leaks cost the US government billions of taxpayer dollars1. Money that could have gone to much better things, like schools and hospitals. He also cost businesses up to 20%2 of overseas profits due to bad press, likely costing countless jobs. All this got Snowden is a revoked passport and 3 charges against him, theft of government property and 2 charges of violating the 1917 espionage act3. If Snowden has done the right thing, wouldn’t people be lining up to protest his charges? Not many people are, and it says a lot about what they think of Snowden.

If we had been in Mr. Snowden’s position, we would not have leaked the information to the press. We would have simply done the job we were contracted to do, and gone on our merry way. We wouldn’t have an arrest warrant on our heads. We wouldn’t be forced to live with the knowledge that we will never be able to return to our home country. We would be able to see our friends and whenever we wanted to, simply by hopping on a plane or getting in a car, rather than somehow getting a message to them to get them to come to *us,* in the Russian Sheremetievo transit zone3.

Citations:

1. <http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2014_03_07/Snowden-leaks-cost-billions-to-NSA-CIA-top-US-military-official-8327/>

2. <http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9241489/Snowden_revelations_may_cost_U.S._cloud_providers_billions_says_study>

3. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Snowden>

4. http://blog.ted.com/2014/03/20/the-nsa-responds-to-edward-snowdens-interview-at-ted/