Final Project Outline

Current Progress

I have made contact with my interviewee, Katie Garcia, and have confirmed that she is comfortable with being interviewed and have tentatively set a date and time for interview. I am to call her at 11:00 am on Friday to conduct the interview. However, we may need to reschedule due to a staff meeting at her company that starts at 11:30. We have confirmed a back up time of 1 pm that same day if we need to reschedule or continue the interview later.

Interview Topic

The main topic of my interview is current ethical dilemmas and practices in software engineering today. My thesis will be, "In today's fast paced and product driven environment, many software engineers are facing the choice between pushing out a rushed product and following the ethical and moral codes of engineers."

Three pieces of information that a reader would need to know to fully understand my interview would be that Software Engineering is fundamentally very collaborative, that it is very time sensitive and often has hard deadline's it's engineers need to meet, and also that issues/bugs regarding rushed products is very prominent right now. Through understanding that SE (software engineering) is collaborative, the reader should also grasp that oftentimes work is not accredited to the correct person and it is sometime difficult to work in a team environment. Knowing that a SE has hard deadlines also means that the reader will know that it's tempting to push out an incomplete product in order to meet such deadline. Lastly, knowing that bugs and issues often arise during rushed coding practices means the reader will grasp how important it is to produce safe, reliable code.

 In addition to these general ideas, the reader will also need to be informed of basic terminology like github, bug, agile, and source control, and also a general sense of the company my interviewee works at, HomeAway.

Assumptions

One assumption I have about the SE field is that often times, products are pushed to production without being fully developed or tested. I have this assumption because I have used such products before, and have also been in a coding environment where it was more important to meet the bottom line and create a product than making sure that the product produced is of the best quality.

Another assumption I have is that most companies consider it more important to meet the bottom line then provide a quality product. This I have also experienced, in both a work environment and school environment. Oftentimes I have submitted work that was half complete,

but would have been scored higher with partial completion than it would have been if I submitted it late.

A last assumption I have is that most companies have trained their employees to know the moral and ethical principles the company promotes. That way, they have legal insurance and can pin the blame on inadequate products on the engineers. That also means that if an employee chooses to go against what they have been trained, it is a personal choice. I know that companies provide this sort of training because I have experienced that training at every place I've worked in the past.

Additional Information

My interviewee is currently employed at the company I will be working for once I graduate. This might make her hesitant to answer some questions with full honesty. I will remind her that she doesn't have to answer any questions she is uncomfortable with, and can also choose to have the full report be anonymous.