

Ethics and Responsibility in Research

Starter

De Monfort University (Leicester) Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility

1. Situation and roles:

You are a panel on a TV talk show debating how to implement ethical considerations into research in the field of computer science, robotics and information technology in general. Your roles are the following:

- a) **Representative from a civil society organization:** activist who advocates for outside regulation to guarantee ethics comes first
- b) **Representative of industry and business interest:** advocates for self-regulation of the industry – can be cynical
- c) **TV show host:** is skeptical, and tries to raise the important questions and help the debate take place

2. Form groups of three students:

	Video 1	Video 2	Video 3
Student 1	Role A	Role B	Role C
Student 2	Role B	Role C	Role A
Student 3	Role C	Role A	Role B
Debate topic focuses on	General industry	Robotics, human-machine interaction	How to organize cooperation between various groups

If groups of 2 students are necessary, adapt the roles by removing role as skeptical, and play one of the roles twice for the last video.

3. Watch video 1 and prepare (~10min):

- a. Make extensive notes of useful vocabulary: words, phrases...that you find difficult and/or useful
- b. Make notes of arguments that can be used in the debate to support your side of the debate (remember your role for this video)

2. Speaking: using the situation described in part 1, organize the debate (~5-10min max.).

4. Do the same for video 2, then video 3.

Going Further

Do some research online, select a few articles and make notes of elements (arguments, examples, facts and figures, quoted research and scientific studies...) that you think are relevant to help answer the questions posed by new avenues of research and their ethical implications.

- Try to keep your notes organized, using a few categories (see above: key ideas, examples/cases, facts and figures...)
- Highlight the helpful vocabulary and language structures used to express the various ideas

Writing

You are the head of a (government or private) research institution.

Write a 300 word recommendation to researchers under your supervision to provide guidelines to follow in their current and upcoming research projects, so that the research that they produce should take ethical issues into account.