Primary Source: Safiya Umoja Noble's "Algorithms of Oppression"

9/18 Discussion 600-800 words

Thesis: "Balancing the need to modify algorithms and program functionality for mitigating negative behaviors must be approached judiciously, as excessive modification can undermine software transparency, perpetuate algorithmic biases, and elevate the risk of unintended consequences."

I. Introduction (130)

A. Introduce the topic and its relevance: "To what extent should we modify algorithms and program functionality to mitigate negative behaviors?"

B. Present the thesis statement: "Balancing the need to modify algorithms and program functionality for mitigating negative behaviors must be approached judiciously, as excessive modification can undermine software transparency, perpetuate algorithmic biases, and elevate the risk of unintended consequences."

C. Mention the work of Safiya Umoja Noble and her book "Algorithms of Oppression" as a foundational text in the discussion of algorithmic bias and transparency.

II. Importance of Software Transparency (200)

A. Define software transparency and its significance in algorithmic decision-making.

B. Discuss the role of transparency in ensuring accountability and user trust.

C. Incorporate insights from "Algorithms of Oppression" to illustrate the consequences of a lack of transparency in algorithm design and usage.

III. Introducing Algorithmic Biases (200)

A. Define algorithmic bias and its implications for decision-making.

B. Explain how excessive algorithm modification can perpetuate biases.

C. Draw from "Algorithms of Oppression" to provide real-world examples of algorithmic biases resulting from over modification and the potential harm they cause.

IV. Real-World Unintended Consequences (200)

A. Present case studies demonstrating the unintended consequences of excessive algorithm modification.

B. Analyze these cases in the context of transparency, biases, and the extent of modification, referencing insights from Noble's work to support the analysis.

V. The Balance of Modification (200)

A. Discuss the need to strike a balance between algorithm modification and transparency, drawing upon the recommendations or insights presented in "Algorithms of Oppression."

B. Explore best practices for addressing negative behaviors while preserving transparency and minimizing biases, considering the lessons learned from Noble's research.

VI. Conclusion (100)

A. Summarize the main points made in the paper, including the importance of software transparency, algorithmic biases, and unintended consequences, while emphasizing the relevance of "Algorithms of Oppression."

B. Reiterate the thesis statement and its relevance in light of the insights from Safiya Umoja Noble's work.

C. Emphasize the need for judicious approaches to algorithm modification to mitigate negative behaviors, using Noble's research as a guide.

D. Encourage further research and ethical discussions in this field, building upon the knowledge and perspectives presented in "Algorithms of Oppression."