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### **Ethics Essay**

Right to freedom is a basic Human Right and should be able to be exercised in all parts of the world. However, freedom does not mean that one should be allowed to practice it in a way that intersects with others' freedom. It would not be ideal if one's freedom deprives someone else of his or hers. And hence the society needs ethics and morals which could be perceived as rules and duties towards freedom of an individual and of the society.

Personally, I have grown more aware of ethics behind decision making only in recent year. As a high-school student, one does not really make decisions big enough to affect someone adversely but the foundation of one's ethics is laid in the impressionable years. Though it was only in college that I started thinking about ethical issues, I was instilled upon the values as I was growing up. Making an ethical decision translates into your ability to think of others and their surroundings while you think of making that decision.

In our class meeting, we discussed issues based on user data, privacy and security of personal information. We spoke about how corporations like Amazon, Google and Facebook use user information to earn umpteen amount of profit about which the user has no idea. We also discussed the effect such user information abuse can have on our personal lives. For instance, Dr. Dickerson discussed Netflix's use of user data and how it could be used when in wrong hands. It is very easy to get to know the personal information of people, such as their sexual orientation which could then be used for not only targeted advertisement but also for profits of other big

corporations such as insurance companies and financial institutions. Dr. Dickerson also discussed how Google accessed the unprotected networks while they were taking pictures for their street view.

The three foundations of ethics that I find most significant while dealing with the current situation are Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity. Without these three, it is impossible for engineers to deliver their responsibility to the society. The other values however can not be neglected and should be give equal importance by any engineer aspiring to develop technology. An engineer is capable of influencing masses by the technology he or she creates and hence should be well versed with the ethical values and their application in our day to day work.