**Class Activity**

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In February 2018, several Google employees objected to a contract with the U.S. Department of Defense called Project Maven. An AI researcher drafted a petition and sent it to CEO Sundar Pichai. Soon after, Google removed almost all discussion of "Don't Be Evil" from its code of conduct. Google assured its employees that the technology underpinning Project Maven was intended to protect lives. In May 2018, roughly a dozen employees quit in protest. Google dissolved the project in July2019, but refused to confirm that the company would reject censorship projects in the future. Google's Sundar Pichai and Eileen Naughton sent an all-staff email to assure employees that the company takes sexual harassment complaints seriously. Google has fired 48 individuals for sexual misconduct and did not grant exit packages to any of them, they wrote. Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced in a company-wide email that Google was ending forced arbitration for accusations of sexual harassment and assault. 20,000 Google employees walked out to protest how the company dealt with sexual misconduct. Many were unsatisfied with the company's response to their demands. A year after the Google walkout, four of the seven employees involved in organizing the protest have left the company. Some claim they were demoted or made to take medical leave for their role in the walkout. TVCs often worked at Google offices, used Google email accounts, and represented the company at external events. Most TVCs were employed by third-party staffing agencies, creating a pipeline of contract labor. The right for employees to self-organize in the U.S. was enshrined by the 1935 National Labor Relations Act. Tech employees were among the highest-paid and most in-demand labor force in the United States. Many believed their power derived from their individual economic value, rather than collective unity. In November 2019, Google employees leaked evidence that the company had hired IRI Consultants. Many Google employees feared that the tool was part of Google's efforts to prevent unionization. Google fired four employees for leaking confidential information and conducting surveillance of co-workers. Dubbed the "Thanksgiving Four," they filed a complaint with the NLRB. In August 2019, Google leadership released a new set of regulations regarding employee speech. Less than a month later, Google fired security engineer Kathryn Spiers after she developed a pop-up that automatically featured a reminder of employees' right to unionize whenever an internal computer accessed the IRI Consultants website. In November 2019, Google announced that it was replacing its TGIF meetings with more formal monthly meetings. These new monthly meetings would be limited to conversations about Google's business strategy.