CASE STUDY

BASIC GUIDELINES

Introduction to Blockchain – Fall 2018

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Case Study Assignments

- You'll be writing two case studies this semester

- Case study format is:

  - A written paper of 1500-2000 words, plus citations

  - Academically rigorous research and cited sources*

*Hint: Books, journals, even blogs… Not *Wikipedia* articles.

What is a case study?

- It's a research methodology
- It's also a research design & structure
- It's a teaching tool
- It's a story

What is a case study?

"A case study encompasses a problem contextualized around the application of in-depth analysis, interpretation, and discussion, often resulting in specific recommendations for action or for improving existing conditions."

https://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/casestudy

What should you study?

- Up to you – get creative!

- Pick a blockchain company, or compare several. Dissect a technology. Analyze an event. Whatever interests **you**.

- Or get technical and write some smart contracts or analyze source code. As long as it's an equivalent level of effort.

- Ask me if you have questions (or want to create that interpretive dance of Merkle Trees…)

How do you write them?

- Select your case

- Decide on a research strategy & methods

- Conduct your literature review (your "book" research)

- Do any necessary primary research (non-book research)

- Figure out what you've figured out

- Write it up!

Resources that may help you:

- https://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/casestudy
- https://awc.ashford.edu/tocw-guidelines-for-writing-a-case-study.html
- https://student.unsw.edu.au/writing-case-study