* I would like you to carefully formulate a research question.   Your readings examine moral decision making and justice across multiple domains.  I would like you to choose an existing digital app.  The app could be used on people’s phones, etc.   Please choose an aspect of this app that involves moral decision making.  This could be on the part of the users, developers, company, etc.  Please formulate a precise research question around this moral decision and outline a method of investigation.   Please defend why your research question is important and why it is necessary to investigate it.

Comprehensive Exam Answers: Clint Davis-Stober

What types of moral questions are we well equipped to answer?

* Generosity and splitting resources
* ‘Fair behavior’ and why it looks good, people dislike appearing unfair (to themselves or others)
* ‘Giving’ things away as a form of ‘buying’ equity or social welfare (especially for dictators)
  + Giving is more consistent w/ people being compelled to give due to situational factors while not valuing the outcome itself
* ‘Moral wiggling’ to achieve unethical ends
  + Types of basic ethics traps, people persuading themselves that they are NOT violating their ethical standards
  + Briefly talk about what and why people set various ethical standard for themselves?
  + Diffusing responsibilities
    - Vertically: intermediary b/w decision maker and stakeholders
      * E.g. Company can use ‘firing consultants’ which don’t do much other than firing employees.
      * Firms can outsource to contractors that pay less than the standards of the firm itself
    - Horizontally: Relying on others to do what’s best for the stakeholder rather than themselves (bystander effect)
  + Exploitation of uncertainty/hidden information
  + ‘Seeking justifications’
    - ‘Twice work/Twice output = praised, but twice work/normal output, or normal work/twice output are paid less!
    - “fair allocations are malleable”
* The absence of explicit information about procedure = similar effects on selfish people
  + Informing people of procedural fairness is necessary, otherwise people believe they are losing for unfair reasons.

Choose an existing digital application (on phones, computers, etc.)

What aspect of this app involves moral decision making (users, developers, company, etc.)?

Please formulate a precise research question around this moral decision and outline a method of investigation!

Why is this research question important?

Why is it necessary to investigate this research question?