

# Term Paper Instructions

You will write a 3-5page term paper **due Monday October 19<sup>th</sup>**. The term paper should be a case study of a past, current, or future use of technology concerning a use of computers in society that has possible or definite issues associated with it. You must use a 12 point serif font and double spaced lines. You must cite at least two sources relevant to the topic and include a works cited page that is alphabetized and numbered. In-text citations can simply use the number of the source at the end of the sentence, such as: “Some sentence referencing something...[1]”.

Examples of past issues are:

- Napster and copyright
- Microsoft and software licensing
- software verification and Ariane 5
- Y2K.

Some examples of current issues are:

- self driving cars and reliability
- AI systems and biased data
- information security and privacy with social media
- video game loot boxes and children gambling.

Examples of (possible) future issues are:

- children’s psychological development in an increasingly networked world
- large swaths of the workforce being jobless due to automation
- AI developing to true Turing Test passing levels
- Transhumanism and body augmentation

The topic that you pick should focus primarily on **professional, ethical, legal, and societal considerations** where appropriate. Your topic should be able to discuss at least one of these aforementioned consideration ares with a sufficient level of detail. The overall structure of your paper should be as follows:

1. Introduction-Outline the broad strokes details of your topic. Communicate why this was a topic that had/has/will have an impact on society and discuss at a high level where the biggest areas issues will arise.
2. Analysis-Discuss in details what considerations are important from the above areas, and what the stems of the issues are. Explain why computing technology is crucial to the concerns of the case study
3. Directions and Consequences—When decisions must be made to address the consideration areas, what will the (possible or definite) consequences of the decisions be? If you are considering a past case study, what are the modern consequences of past actions, and what are possible future consequences?
4. Opinion—What do you think the best course of actions was/is?
5. Conclusion—Summarize the considerations, issues, and your overall opinion.

Your paper will be graded by the following rubric. You get 10 points just for turning something in.

	<b>Weak (0-3)</b>	<b>Average (4-6)</b>	<b>Strong (7-9)</b>	<b>Exceptional (10)</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	The topic chosen is irrelevant, or the writing is incoherent.	The topic chosen does not have much to discuss or lacks overall importance.	The topic chosen is strong, but the writing could be more engaging.	The topic chosen is strong and the writing grips the reader.
<b>Analysis</b>	No considerations are discussed or they are irrelevant.	The considerations only have weak relation to the topic.	The topic clearly relates to a consideration.	The topic relates to multiple considerations or 1 consideration, strongly.
<b>Directions and Consequences</b>	The effects or possible effects of the topic are not discussed.	The effects or possible effects of the topic are barely discussed.	The effects or possible effects of the topic are discussed.	The effects or possible effects of the topic are discussed and multiple outcomes were considered.
<b>Opinion</b>	The author's opinions are omitted.	The author does not choose a strong stance or does not clearly state their opinion.	The author's thoughts on the matter are overall clear, and the stance is strong.	The author's thoughts on the matter are articulated clearly, and a strong stance is chosen.
<b>Conclusion</b>	The conclusion is omitted.	The conclusion is verbose or aimless.	The conclusion is present but isn't exciting.	The conclusion is to the point.
<b>Style</b>	The writing is dull or lacks any structure.	Sentence structure is repetitive or the structure of the writing is murky.	The author communicates the material clearly.	The author writes with an engaging style and varies sentence structure.
<b>Grammar and Spelling</b>	10+ mistakes	7-9 mistakes	4-6 mistakes.	0-3 mistakes.
<b>Works Cited</b>	No works are cited.	Citations are incorrect or the work cited is missing sources	Everything relevant is included but not alphabetized, or citations are incorrect.	Everything relevant is included and sources are alphabetized by author.
<b>Length</b>	Less than a full page or over 10 pages	1 page or 7-9 pages.	2 pages or 6 pages	3-5 pages

