Summary: Since our course focuses on the "social implications of computing," you will write a social and ethical analysis of some computing technology.

Audience: The audience for your work should be your peers, that is, someone who has been exposed to the ethical theories we have discussed in class and who has a similar level of technical understanding. You may assume they are aware of the theories, but you must still strive to connect these theories to your analysis,by showing how they apply.

Topic: You may choose which computing-related technology to analyze. The technology should be relatively recent and may have subtle or not-so-subtle implications. While the technology should have a relatively broad impact, the ethical consequence/analysis is slightly more important than the technical consequence. Many textbooks focus on technology and society (some are on reserve in the library for this course), but you often need not look farther than your daily newspaper— especially the technology and/or politics sections—for examples. Again, a central factor in your topic should be computing, not general science and technology. The focus of your paper should not be an explication of the technology. Rather, you should say only enough about it to clarify what the relevant social issues will be. Feel free to inquire if you are having difficulty identifying a topic or are unsure about whether your topic is appropriate.

Analysis: The ethical analysis should form the core of your paper and should drive your writing from start to finish. Remember that ethics is the rational analysis of conduct that affects others. Therefore, you should be very clear on the ethical issues, stakeholders, and potential impacts. You may consider potential policies, and the relevant duties, rights, and/or consequences of each. It may be necessary to do this only for a single action/rule/policy related to your computing topic, or it may be necessary to discuss several such options.

Argument: In all cases, you must give reasoned support for your analysis. Since the three elements of argument are thesis, evidence, and reason, you should have a clear thesis supported by evidence and reasoning that ties the evidence and ethical theories together. **Opinions are insufficient.** If you are inexperienced in this form of writing, please consult a chapter on writing well-reasoned arguments entitled "Critical Thinking Skills," by Kevin W. Bowyer (on E-Reserve for this course).

References: You must cite at least one reference for the computing topic. This may be a newspaper article, promotional material for the technology, or any other standard primary or secondary source. Furthermore, your should support your claims of evidence by citing external references. Your sources should be either primary or secondary; **Wikipedia is an unacceptable reference.** You may cite the text for the ethical theories. Thus, you should plan to have at least 3-4 references, or more if appropriate. You must consistently use a recognized citation style of your choice, such as MLA or APA.

Length: Your essay must be at least 900 words and **no more** than 1100 words. To help give you a sense of length, this is roughly 4 pages when formatted single-sided, double-spaced, no more than 12 point font and 1" margins. This excludes references or any other headers/footers.

Milestones: There will be at least two milestones (preliminary writing tasks) before the final paper submission. These tasks should be typed and are due at the beginning of class on the specified date.

Topic Selection *(Wed. April 1)* Write two or three sentences identifying your technical topic and giving a brief sketch of its social implications. You need do no analysis, just offer a convincing statement about impact. If your topic needs any additional focusing or suggestions, I will notify you by Friday April 3.

Sentence Outline *(Wed. April 15)* Write an outline of your paper that shows the logical organization and flow of your argument. All headings (and sub-headings) must be a complete sentence. These may or may not end up in your paper, but the your outline needs to show a completely formulated statement. Furthermore, no division (or sub-division) may consist of only one part. That is, an "A" must have a "B" and a "1" must have an accompanying "2." This format will help you bring clarity to your paragraph sequence and internal cohesion. Once you have organized the paper, you should find the task of writing and developing paragraphs easier.

Draft and Revision Plan *(Wed. April 22)* Good writing results from revisions. You are encouraged to draft and revise your writing several times. Note that revising might mean adding, removing, or completely reorganizing multiple paragraphs. It is not simply correcting grammar. Toward this end, you may submit a draft and revision plan (summary of necessary changes) generated by an external review for up to 3% extra credit on the assignment. Your external review may be done by a peer critic or the Writing Center. Performing an external review for a peer's draft is worth up to 2% extra credit on your own assignment; submit (to me) a copy of your editorial comments to the reviewee.

Final Paper *(Wed. April 29)* Your final draft, including all the aspects described on page one, is due in week 13.

Grading: Your essay will be graded based on all of the requirements mentioned on the first page, in addition to the usual basics of good writing: logical flow, paragraph cohesion, and grammar. Your topic selection and sentence outlines together will be worth 10% of the overall grade. I expect you to devote care and attention to all tasks for this assignment.