

Intellectual Property Statement of Ethics Project

ENG 501

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WHAT'S A STATEMENT OF ETHICS?

A statement of ethics clearly identifies a person's or company's beliefs about core concepts of the person's life or a company's business and define key terms related to those concepts. These statements guide the ways people or companies function and lead to the development of specific lists of practices, which may be called a Code of Conduct or Best Practices, that enable people to enact or uphold those beliefs.

THE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment asks you to write a personal statement of ethics regarding intellectual property. Your statement needs to do the following:

- Define intellectual property
 - What types of things count as intellectual property?
 - What makes something someone's intellectual property?
 - Your definition should follow the term= category + defining characteristics pattern we discussed in class
- Define plagiarism
 - What actions or uses cause plagiarism?
 - What factors make an action plagiarism?
 - Your definition should follow the term= category + defining characteristics pattern we discussed in class
- Identify at least 3 ethical and responsible uses of intellectual property and articulate *why* these uses are ethical
 - What ways can people appropriately use the intellectual property of others?
 - When can/should people use the intellectual property of others?
 - Why are certain uses appropriate?
 - What tools are available to help people protect their own intellectual property or the intellectual property of others?
 - Why is it important to protect intellectual property?
- Identify at least 2 unethical or irresponsible uses of intellectual property and articulate *why* these uses are unethical
 - What ways can people inappropriately use the intellectual property of others?
 - When can't people use the intellectual property of others?
 - Why are these uses inappropriate?
- List 4 statements of best practices that clearly state, using action verbs, how to ethically handle intellectual property
 - What will *you* do specifically to ethically use intellectual property?
 - What will *you* do to avoid unethical uses of intellectual property?

FORMAT

Your statement should be approximately 1-2 pages, with distinct sections identified by headings. Content within each section should be in either paragraph or bullet format. Paragraphs should be single-spaced. You may use indents, bolding or italics, or font sizing to make particular concepts, terms or sections easier to identify.

Your report should have a header and headings in APA style (see your *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*). Your paper title should be centered.

NOTE: This document should be in your own words and you should not be looking anything up on the internet or elsewhere.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, Oct. 26

Due to Moodle

ASSESSMENT

The rubric below will be used to assess your Statement of Ethics. It is worth 100 points (20% of your final grade).

	Purpose & Content	Organization	Presentation & Design	Requirements
An A Statement (90-100 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides 2 clear definitions of key terms (intellectual property and plagiarism) • Provides 3 clear statements about ethical uses of intellectual property, supported by clear rationales and examples • Provides 2 clear statements about unethical uses of intellectual property, supported by clear rationales and examples • Provides 4 specific, action-oriented statements of best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently uses headings to organize content • Uses the correct pattern for definitions • Effectively uses paragraphs or bullets to convey content in each section • Organizes information in a logical order and groups similar information throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses headings and contrast to increase readability • Has no noticeable errors in grammar or spelling • Has correctly formatted headers, headings and titles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is at least 1 page, single spaced
A B Statement (80-89.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides 2 mostly clear definitions of key terms (intellectual property and plagiarism) with a few minor lapses • Provides 3 mostly clear statements about ethical uses of intellectual property, supported by mostly clear rationales and examples with a few spots that need more clarification, explanation or examples • Provides 2 mostly clear statements about unethical uses of intellectual property, supported by mostly clear rationales and examples with a few spots that need more clarification, explanation or examples • Provides 4 mostly specific, action-oriented statements of best practices that need clarification in only a few spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently uses headings to organize content • Uses the correct pattern for definitions • Mostly effectively uses paragraphs to convey content in each section with a few spots where bullets or a paragraph would have been more appropriate • Almost always organizes information in a logical order and groups similar information with a few minor lapses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses headings and contrast to increase readability with a few minor lapses • Has a few minor errors in grammar or spelling • Has correctly formatted headers, headings and titles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is at least 1 page, single spaced

	Purpose & Content	Organization	Presentation & Design	Requirements
A C Statement (70-79.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides 2 generally clear definitions of key terms (intellectual property and plagiarism) with omission of the category or a few necessary defining characteristics • Provides 3 generally clear statements about ethical uses of intellectual property, supported by generally clear rationales and examples with some spots that need more clarification, explanation or examples • Provides 2 generally clear statements about unethical uses of intellectual property, supported by generally clear rationales and examples with some spots that need more clarification, explanation or examples • Provides 4 generally specific, action-oriented statements of best practices that need clarification in some spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally consistently uses headings to organize content with a some minor lapses • Generally uses the correct pattern for definitions, with one omission of a key part • Generally effectively uses paragraphs to convey content in each section with some spots where bullets or a paragraph would have been more appropriate • Generally organizes information is in a logical order and groups similar information with some minor lapses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally uses headings and contrast to increase readability, but has some minor errors • Has some noticeable minor errors and a few noticeable major errors in grammar and spelling • Has correctly formatted headers, headings and titles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is at least 1 page, single spaced
A D Statement (60-69.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides 2 definitions of key terms (intellectual property and plagiarism) with omission of the category and most necessary defining characteristics • Provides 3 statements about ethical uses of intellectual property, supported by minimally clear rationales and examples with many spots that need more clarification, explanation or examples • Provides 2 statements about unethical uses of intellectual property, supported by minimally clear rationales and examples with many spots that need more clarification, explanation or examples • Provides 4 statements of best practices that are somewhat action-oriented and need clarification in many spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat consistently uses headings to organize content with a some minor lapses • Somewhat uses the correct pattern for definitions, with multiple omissions of a key parts • Somewhat effectively uses paragraphs to convey content in each section with many spots where bullets or a paragraph would have been more appropriate • Somewhat organizes information is in a logical order and groups similar information with many lapses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat uses headings and contrast to increase readability, but has a few major errors • Has many noticeable minor errors and some noticeable major errors in grammar and spelling • Has incorrectly formatted headers, headings and titles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not at least 1 page, single spaced

	Purpose & Content	Organization	Presentation & Design	Requirements
An F Statement (Less than 60 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to provides 2 definitions of key terms (intellectual property and plagiarism) • Provides 3 statements about ethical uses of intellectual property, with minimal or no explanation or supporting examples OR provides fewer than 3 statements • Provides 2 statements about unethical uses of intellectual property with minimal or no rationales and examples OR provides fewer than 2 statements • Fails to provide 4 statements of best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimally or never consistently uses headings to organize content • Fails to use the correct pattern for definitions • Fails to effectively uses paragraphs to convey content in each section with numerous spots where bullets or a paragraph would have been more appropriate • Minimally or never organizes information is in a logical order or groups similar information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely or never uses headings or contrast to increase readability • Has numerous noticeable minor errors and numerous noticeable major errors in grammar and spelling • Has incorrectly formatted headers, headings and titles OR is missing these elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not at least 1 page, single spaced

QUESTIONS? Contact me at wittea@trine.edu or drop in during office hours in 215 Taylor Hall.