CS 4001 Homework 2: Applying Different Ethical Frameworks to a Dilemma

Due:	February 2, 2017
Format	Approximately 3 pages, single spaced, 12 point font
Logistics	Submit as a PDF (preferred) or as a Word document on TSquare
Grading criteria	Completeness
	Writing
	Insight into each ethical theory
	Individual ethical analysis
	Late policy applies
Grade	60 points (6% of your overall grade)

Consider this ethical dilemma:

The summer camp you have attended since you were very young has just added a computer activity. You've been hired to be the camp's first "computer counselor." It's 1983. The computers are Apple IIe's. The web hasn't been invented yet. The machines have no Internet access. There is no LAN--software has to be loaded onto each machine individually from floppy disks.

You arrive two days before the campers, and between endless counselor training meetings you have a few hours to set up the computer lab. You discover that all the software you have is on floppies with hand-written labels, no documentation. Suspicious, you approach the director of the camp, Lou: was the software purchased or just copied? Lou says it was just copied. You politely tell him that you need legal copies, and a license for each machine. He refuses, and tells you that you're being "uptight."

Campers arrive tomorrow. There's really nothing you can do with an Apple IIe without software. You don't have a development environment. You don't have money to buy software yourself. And you can't seek donations--the camp caters to well-off kids, not the underprivileged.

Do you install the copied software on the machines? Or do you leave the machines blank and tell the kids who arrive you're sorry but they should try another activity? Do you quit your job? What other courses of action might you consider?

1. What would an act-utilitarian analysis suggest you do? Why?
2. What would a rule-utilitarian analysis suggest you do? Why?
3. What would a deontological (Kantanian) analysis suggest you do? Why?
4. What would social contract theory suggest you do? Why?
5. What would an analysis from virtue ethics suggest you do? Why?
6. Combine these different perspectives and provide a well-reasoned argument for a course of action.

7. Comment on noteworthy strengths and weaknesses of the different theories that came up in your analysis. Pick one noteworthy strength of one theory, and one weakness of a theory, and discuss.

Answer each question separately.