

CS 4873-A Term Paper Proposal (Spring 2021)

Due:	February 26, 2021, 11:59pm Eastern Time
Format	Approximately 3 pages, double spaced, 12 point font
Logistics	Submit as a PDF on Canvas
Grading criteria	Completeness
	Writing
	Quality of references
	Quality of argument
	Late policy applies
Grade	30 points (3% of your overall grade)

For your term paper, you will research an issue about computing and society that **you are initially undecided about**. The eventual purpose of this term paper writing is to enable you arrive at a stance on this issue and support your position. In this first part, you will be required to present a proposal for this investigation. The proposal should contain the following items:

- 1) Identify the issue you have chosen
- 2) Explain why you are interested in the issue
- 3) Explain why you are undecided about the issue, and
- 4) Identify a few initial information sources you will examine to begin to research the issue.
List at least four refereed sources¹: journal articles or conference papers

Make sure to pick a topic that others have written about, that is, there is existing research. You are being graded on how well you research the issue and cite the literature about it. If there's little to cite, you will have trouble with this assignment.

Here is a list of computing and society oriented argumentative topics – you can pick something from here if you like, but, by no means, this is an exhaustive list—you can pick another topic that you care about:

- a. The increasing use of social media in personal, business and marketing fields: is the use too much?
- b. Does using Facebook too much make us depressed?
- c. Has the use of phones from a young age decreased the desire to go outside and have a face-to-face interaction?
- d. Has the option of online education decreased the value of face-to-face learning?
- e. Is the use of computers in schools as early as elementary schools a good thing?
- f. Is it a good thing that we are increasingly using robots in our lives?
- g. The use of drones to conduct projects outside of the military. Is it a good idea?
- h. Self-driving cars: is that a good thing for us?
- i. Face recognition technology: should we encourage this line of research?
- j. Should tech companies assume social responsibility: e.g., should Facebook have done something about bots and mis- / dis-information (colloquially fake news) before the 2016 and 2020 U.S. Presidential elections?
- k. Was the deplatforming of Donald Trump from all major social media platforms ethical?

¹ A refereed source is something that has gone through peer review--like a journal article or most conference papers. Books and journalistic articles do not count. For each reference you provide, please provide the full, correct reference in APA format.

We will send you comments on your proposal. In some cases, we will ask students to considerably revise and submit a new proposal. Revised proposals should be submitted as soon as possible; one week from the date we ask you to revise is the latest possible.

Either before or after these proposals are due, you may email the professor or your TA to make an appointment to discuss your topic. Or find us after class.