

COMP102 Fall 2006

Assignment 5

Due: Tuesday, December 5, 2006, 8:35 a.m.

This assignment requires doing research and writing an essay. It is appropriate to search on the Internet to find information. Your essay must be well-researched. It is recommended that you cite about 5 sources, although more or less could also be appropriate. Your arguments can be based on facts and opinions discussed in class, however, to get credit for your essay, you must do additional research.

Your essay should be clearly written, using standard grammar and spelling. It should also be well organized and use formal language. You must include a bibliography. The approximate essay length is 500 words. However, the most important evaluation criterion is the depth of your arguments and your ability to think critically.

You may choose a topic from the ones listed below, or you may select your own topic. In the latter case, you may want to check with the instructor that your topic is appropriate.

1. Summarize the arguments made in favour of the open-source movement by its founder Richer Stallman. Present your opinions on the arguments he made.
2. Discuss the issues in computer game addiction.
3. Discuss the statement: "Advances in technology are making people work longer hours."
4. Should file-sharing of copyrighted materials, such as mp3 files, be a crime? What about producing mp3 versions of copyrighted songs and sharing these?
5. Argue for or against globalization with respect to exporting IT jobs.
6. Do the Unites States have a right to forbid exportation of strong encryption algorithms and do you believe that they can be successful as this?
7. How has technology changed the way in which people communicate? Discuss what effect these changes are having on our lifestyle.
8. Discuss the relationship between technology and alienation.
9. Discuss the usefulness of a DNS Blacklist for controlling spam.
10. Discuss the original definition of "hacker" and the definition that is used by the media currently. When does being savvy with computers become a menace to society?