

CSE 260 Contemporary Issues in CSE

Final Writing Assignment: “A Potential Topic”

Due: May 2, 2008

Based on the final discussion on April 23, I would like you to identify a topic for future use in CSE 260 (so we might provide a set of topics to the students). This should *not* be one of the topics we covered this semester. It should be a topic involving computers or computer science, of current interest, that has at least two sides—that is, a topic for which you could support more than one position. Most if not all of our topics this semester fit these requirements: for the wireless topic, e.g., it involved computing, was of current interest, and there were at least two opposing positions that you could argue: that “stealing” WiFi access or making it available unencrypted is bad, or that it is a societal or individual good.

Specific instructions

Write 4 paragraphs, as follows:

- In the first paragraph, identify a topic, including a brief description of what you mean (e.g. the topic was Wireless, but what was meant were the ethical issues of providing or using other people’s wireless without the user’s knowledge). Identify one position related to the topic that could be argued in more than one way. (e.g. People should provide and use WiFi without the user’s knowledge.)
- In the second paragraph, sketch out one side of the argument. Provide a link to a document/article/blog that supports this view.
- In the third paragraph, sketch out a different side of the argument. As above, provide a link that supports this view.
- In the final paragraph, explain why this might be a good discussion topic in CSE 260 (or not). This should be based on the topic and its potential rather than your supplied links, as you can assume the future students will have to find their own papers.

It is not necessary that you find a topic that involves diametrically opposed viewpoints—subtle distinctions can also be interesting.

Write your assignment in plain text, LaTeX article style (source), or in MS Word, and submit it via email to robert@engr.uconn.edu by the end of Friday, May 2. The expectation is that this should be about one page in length.

Enjoy!