

Math 115F: Cryptography, Fall 2014

Paper #1 – Reaction Paper

For this paper assignment, I'm asking you to read and respond to one of the articles listed below, each dealing with cryptography and its role in society. You'll need to summarize the thesis and argument of the article you select, then respond by agreeing or disagreeing with the article's thesis and defending your position with your own argument. Your paper should draw primarily on your personal experiences and perspectives, supplemented by fact-checking as appropriate. This paper is an opportunity to surface your opinions about one of the big questions in this course and take some ownership of those opinions. It's also an opportunity for you to practice your argumentation skills without having the added complexity of integrating and responding to multiple sources and references.

This paper will be graded on both content (including the relevance and complexity of your response) and clarity (including the appropriateness of your writing voice to academic writing). See the rubric for this assignment for more details on my expectations. Please consider this rubric as a guide to my expectations and not a binding contract on my grading. I reserve the right to make changes to the rubric during the grading process.

THE ARTICLES

1. Morris, M. (2011, October 2). Data mining could save lives. *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Retrieved from <http://chronicle.com/article/Mining-Student-Data-Could-Save/129231/>
2. Dieppe still an enigma [Editorial]. (2012, August 18). *Winnipeg Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://is.gd/m4g8tH>
3. Schneier, B. (2014, August 19). How to save the Net: Break up the NSA. *Wired*. Retrieved from <http://www.wired.com/2014/08/save-the-net-bruce-schneier/>.
4. Abrams, J. J. (2009). J. J. Abrams on the magic of mystery. *Wired* 17(5). Retrieved from http://www.wired.com/techbiz/people/magazine/17-05/mf_jjessay

Not all of these articles are explicitly about cryptography. Be sure to draw out connections between your article and the science of secrecy in your papers.

LENGTH AND FORMATTING

Your paper should be between 750 and 1000 words in length, and it should use American Psychological Association (APA) formatting for citations and references. Citations appear within the text of your paper, references at the end. Both should be properly formatted. See Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (<http://is.gd/UuDWnt>) for a useful guide to APA formatting.

DRAFTS AND REVISIONS

A first draft of your paper is due at the start of class on Friday, September 5th. Bring a paper copy since you'll spend part of that class session providing feedback on each other's papers.

A second draft of your paper is due at the start of class on Monday, September 8th, as an email attachment. I'll grade this draft and return it to you with feedback on Monday, September 15th. During class that day, we'll spend some time exploring revision tools and techniques.

Then you'll be required to revise your paper and resubmit it (via email) by Monday, September 22nd. Your final grade on the paper will be the average of the two grades before and after revision, and will contribute 10% of your overall course grade.

SCHEDULE

Friday, September 5 th	First draft due. Peer review workshop during class.
Monday, September 8 th	Second draft due.
Monday, September 15 th	Second draft returned. Revision workshop during class.
Monday, September 22 nd	Revision due.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please familiarize yourself with Vanderbilt's Honor System. I'm encouraging a lot of sharing and collaboration in this course, but your work on your paper assignments should be your own. Please be careful not to plagiarize. The Writing Studio has a great set of resources on working with sources in academic writing (<http://is.gd/LGUCDb>). We'll spend some class time exploring plagiarism and academic integrity more generally.

If your life is falling apart and you are tempted to plagiarize to save time or get a good grade, please see me instead. I would rather grant you an extension than send you before the Honor Council.