

Reflection assignment – MOD 11 – 2022 – University of Twente

With your group, write a six-page reflection report where you attempt to connect your design project with one of the ethical topics discussed in the Reflection Component lectures. If it is difficult to make such a connection, choose a technology that falls in the same broad category as your design project, and discuss its moral or societal dimensions. If you have any questions, just contact the teachers, and we will help you to find a solution.

Format

- Length 1800-2400 words not including references (aim for approximately 6 pages)
- Single spaced in Times New Roman font size 12
- Figures or tables are welcome to use as necessary
- Properly referenced scientific & philosophical materials are required (the use of course materials is required, additional sources are strongly encouraged). Don't forget to properly acknowledge your sources!

Structure

Your paper should have three sections:

(1) In the first section, describe your project: explain what is that that you are doing, how the product/service will be used, who will use it etc. This section should be no longer than 600 words.

(2) In the second section, we expect you to evaluate potential ethical problems and risks that your project may pose. Apply one or more of the ethical issues or concepts from the course to your project and analyse them in detail. This section should be around about 1000 words. Generally, we suggest focusing on only a couple ethical topics. Use course concepts, lectures, and reading assignments to supplement your analysis (remember, it's not about quantity but about quality!). The use of additional (credible) sources is encouraged.

(3) Finally, offer and evaluate potential responses to those ethical worries. Do you feel steps could be or must be taken in order to ensure that your project is ethical? What are the costs and benefits of potential responses? This section should be no more than 800 words.

Recipe for a good essay:

explain = describe in detail;

illustrate = give examples;

give reasons = do not just state things, give reasons why;

ground = support by references to research literature and course materials.

Possible topics

Does your project involve personal data? Consider writing about privacy. Does your product try to direct user behavior? Look at the materials on persuasive technology. Does your design automate tasks that previously were carried out by humans? The relevant topic might be automation. Is there a chance your design gives rise to an unequal treatment of users/employees/customers/citizens? Do some brainstorming about algorithms and bias. Literature on all of these topics—and more—is provided on Canvas.

Example of structuring your paper

Here are some suggestions on how to structure your reflection report. You can use the questions below as inspiration for your report (but do not simply copy-and-paste and mechanically answer them). Feel free to deviate from this set-up or do things in a different order.

First, introduce your design project to the reader. Describe in general terms what type of product or service or software it is. Skip the nitty-gritty details, but try to capture what is essential or distinctive about it. To what type of technology does your product/project belong? You could even include a brief historical overview of this technological domain.

Try to figure out if the development or the use of your product gives rise to anything with moral significance. Is your product/service used by consumers? If so, will it have any effects on their wellbeing, their autonomy, their lifestyle, or their relations to other people? Can the product or the service be abused—intentionally or unintentionally? Can such abuse be prevented? If so, how? Is your product equally accessible to all segments of society?

If your product or service is business-to-business, does it affect the way these businesses are run? Does it have an impact on the employees, the competition, the customer, citizens, the environment, or other stakeholders? If so, can these impacts be increased or mitigated? Feel free to consider far-fetched hypothetical scenarios when looking for these effects. What would a future society that relies heavily in this type of technology look like?

If your design is a technical invention, or an improvement or a modification of an existing technology, then what are some of the conceivable uses of this technology? Which future consumer products might implement the technology? What might the effects of such future products be on consumers, society, or business? Image someone hyper-critical of the type of technology that your project or service belongs to. What arguments might such a critic come up with? Are there trade-offs between potential upsides and downsides of your technology? For instance, is there a trade-off between user privacy and the quality of service provided? Is there a trade-off between safety and energy usage? Is there a trade-off between ease of use and loss of autonomy? Again, use your imagination to find possible up- and downsides of the technology involved.

If you can't find suitable questions to discuss, or need more materials, consult with Dina or Isaac, or your supervisor.

Assessment & credits

Your report is graded on a 1-10 scale. Everyone in the group will receive the same grade.

In determining the grade, we rely on the following criteria:

- 30%: Is the paper well written, in clear and understandable way? Are the central claims/ explanations/ arguments clearly laid out? Is the overall structure of the report apparent to the reader? Does it have a suitable conclusion?
- 30%: Does the report identify and discuss relevant ethical dimensions of the project, product, or service? Does the report incorporate themes and materials from the lectures?
- 20%: Are factual claims supported by relevant data, statistics and other types of evidence? Does the paper include references to reliable and reputable sources?
- 20%: Does the report contain any original insights or discussions? Does the report show that the students have thought about and tried to apply themes from the lectures to their own unique projects?

Due Date- 13th April 2022.

Academic integrity

We expect everything you turn in to be written **by you** (and in your own words) and not copied from the internet or other sources. Among other things this means that you cannot copy/paste any part of third party materials in you text, unless you use quotation marks **and** acknowledge the source (incl. course materials. If you are unsure what plagiarism is see UT manual:

<https://www.utwente.nl/en/service-portal/university-library/referencing-copyright/referencing-plagiarism> . If we establish that your paper has been plagiarized, you will receive a failing grade for the course and can expect disciplinary action.