

CE 401 FALL 2019 Essay Assignment–August 23, 2019

Prepare a 1000 to 2000-word essay that addresses the issues and questions described below. You should base your essay upon information presented in CE 401 and your knowledge about values, ethics, and ethical decision-making. You must apply the three (3) Josephson Institute [JI] GKC Ethical Decision Making Criteria presented in the JI publication “MAKING ETHICAL DECISIONS” in the Seminar Readings Prior To Session 04 at pages 3-21, and the material from an earlier JI publication at pages 23-48. **While you could use other decision-making Criteria to analyze and resolve the ethical dilemma presented in this assignment, you must properly define and apply these three (3) Josephson GKC Criteria for this assignment.** If you do not understand the three (3) Josephson GKC Criteria for ethical decision making, it is your responsibility to ask for clarification before you write.

This essay assignment is a two-person team project. **I will not permit any solo writing.** I encourage you to form your own team by identifying the members in an email to ce-401@windstream.net before the beginning of the 2nd class meeting on September 6 with “**ESSAY TEAM REQUEST**” in the Subject line and with each team members’ email addresses in either the “From” or “CC” box so I can verify to each team member that I have received the team request and assigned a **TEAM NUMBER** with the “Reply All” Command. If you do not receive a **RETURN E-MAIL** verification, check the email address and resend the email until you get the verification. If you do not request a team affiliation before the beginning of the 2nd class meeting, I will randomly assign you to a team. If there are an odd number of students in the section, I will approve the first valid request for a 3-person team, and I will reject all subsequent requests for 3-person teams. **I will present the ESSAY TEAMS at the beginning of the second class meeting, which will be final unless you can demonstrate why your timely “ESSAY TEAM REQUEST” email failed to reach my inbox.**

You should begin the writing process while relevant readings and in-class discussions topics are fresh. When you submit your essay, you certify that each essay team member agrees with the final essay content, organization, grammar, spelling, and the overall impression the essay makes. Each team should submit the essay as a Microsoft WORD attachment to an email to ce-401@windstream.net with “**ESSAY (Team Number)**” in the subject line at any time prior to the beginning of class on **November 1, 2019.** Each team member’s email address must appear either in the “From” or “CC” box, so I can use the “Reply All” Command to verify to each team member that I have received the Essay. I will grade the essays in Microsoft Word with the Track Changes turned “ON.” I will provide each team a **GRADED** Essay file that contains the grade, together with my comments, suggestions, and editing. I will also post ALL Essay Grades at the CE-401 website when I return the graded papers. Each team member will receive the same grade for the essay.

The Assignment:

In the video, “*Incident at Morales*,” Fred Martinez was asked, “Can you find the moment at which you took the wrong path, when you made the mistake?” You must identify this moment as “Fred’s point of no return.” You should demonstrate why the moment you selected is the critical moment by showing Fred could modify his prior decisions without personal liability at and prior to this critical moment, but thereafter Fred would either be liable for Ortega’s death or liable for the cost associated with later changes that could avert Ortega’s death, which would have been due to Fred’s failure to act ethically at that critical moment. You should identify and analyze the specific decision that Fred faced at your critical moment by applying Josephson’s **three GKC Criteria for Ethical Decisions**, and you may use the **SEVEN-STEP PATH TO BETTER DECISIONS** to define the decision-making process. In this regard, be sure that you frame your essay at a minimum by understanding and/or addressing the following issues:

1. **Before you write, STOP AND THINK** to **CLARIFY AND UNDERSTAND** Fred’s **GOALS**. This step **will probably not** produce a written segment of the essay, but your understanding Fred’s goals should help you clarify the issues that you should address within the body of your essay.
2. **RELEVANT FACTS:** Be sure to correctly state the **relevant** facts, because the validity of your analysis depends upon a correct understanding of the **relevant** facts. **Do not clutter your essay with irrelevant facts, i.e. facts that do not affect your analysis of the ethical decision Fred faces at the critical moment you selected. If your analysis depends upon a fact, then it is relevant. If your analysis does not depend upon the fact, it is irrelevant.**
3. **FRED’S DECISION AT HIS CRITICAL MOMENT:** Be sure to identify when Fred chose the wrong path and the specific **DECISION** Fred faced at that moment. You must ascertain that this moment is the critical moment by demonstrating that even at this critical moment, Fred could still correct any prior error without incurring liability, but after this moment, Fred became personally accountable for Manuel Ortega’s death and/or other liabilities.
4. **STAKEHOLDERS.** Be sure to define the stakeholder concept and identify the stakeholders to Fred’s decision.
5. **THREE ETHICALLY VIABLE OPTIONS:** Identify at least three ethically viable options, e.g. the range of actions Fred could take at the critical moment. To show ethical viability, you should “**Pillarize**” an option to demonstrate the option does not violate an ethical principle to advance a non-ethical value. **MAJOR HINT: Do not analyze a decision or consider options not available to Fred at the critical moment you select, i.e options only available at some other moment, either before or after the CRITICAL MOMENT, are not valid options for the decision point you selected.**
6. **PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES:** Discuss how each viable option will probably affect each stakeholder.
7. **DECIDE:** Identify which option Fred should take based upon **the three (3) Josephson GKC Criteria**.
 - a. Does your choice consider the interests and well-being of all stakeholders? (Crit. #1), i.e. it meets the “Golden Rule”
 - b. Does your choice violate an ethical value to advance a non-ethical value? (Crit. #2), i.e. it is not “Clearly Wrong”
 - c. Does your choice produce the greatest balance of good over bad outcomes, and does your choice resolves an ethical dilemma with two or more core ethical values in conflict? (Crit. #3) i.e. it maximizes “Good Outcomes”
8. Before you finalize your essay, verify that your analysis is **NOT** “distracted by “**RATIONALIZATIONS.**” and if it is, refine your analysis further prior to submitting your essay.

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This essay is worth 200 points, 20% of the 1000 pts for the semester. Based on prior experience, the essay grade often determines the final grade in CE-401. I encourage you to take the essay assignment seriously, and I am confident that the essay you submit will clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of your effort.

I will grade the essays based on how well your writing demonstrates (1) your understanding of the relevant facts in this case, (2) your understanding and application of **Josephson’s three (3) GKC Criteria for Ethical Decisions** to those relevant facts, and (3) the clarity with which you communicate your ideas. While your analytical approach should mirror THE SEVEN-STEP PATH TO BETTER DECISIONS, **the grading will emphasize the application of the three (3) GKC Criteria. The grading components include the content of the essay, the organization of the material, the grammar, the spelling, and my subjective opinion of your presentation as described in more detail below.**

I expect your best effort on this essay. **The grading of your writing and analysis will be thorough and critical based on that expectation.**

ESSAY GRADING CRITERIA

I will grade your essay based upon the following criteria. Of necessity, grading essays is a subjective process. **All grading decisions reflect my subjective conclusions and opinions, and as such are final.**

80 Pts Content of Essay: Does the essay adequately address the specific issues described briefly above in the 8 enumerated items on page 1? Does the essay define important special terminology required in the analysis such as “Stakeholder,” “Ethical Dilemma,” “ethical values,” and “non-ethical values,” etc.? Does the essay define and properly apply the three (3) Josephson GKC criteria? Are your names on the essay?

50 Pts Organization of Material: Does the presentation of the essay flow logically with smooth transitions between major ideas, or does the essay jump from random thought to random thought? Are paragraphs well developed around focused topic sentences? Does the organization reflect a writing process that included topic and sentence outlines followed by multiple drafts? Does the essay make effective use of headings to identify the major topics, and other formatting techniques that can help and guide the reader? Does the essay title give the reader a glimpse of the essay’s prevailing message? Are the pages sequentially numbered?

40 Pts Grammar: Does the essay comply with generally accepted standards of grammar, e.g. subject/verb relationships, verb tense consistency, singular/plural consistency, noun form consistency, use of pronouns with correct antecedent nouns, punctuation, etc. **Have you written the essay in the active voice rather than the passive voice? Since this will be a Point of Grading Emphasis, eliminate passive voice when possible?**

10 Pts Spelling: This should be self-explanatory; however, prior essays have demonstrated a lack of attention to this detail on words like “engineer.” I will deduct one point for each misspelling found in the essay and for each such occurrence, except for misspelled proper names, the deduction will be 2 points, only on the first such occurrence for each specific proper name misspelled in the essay. I will also deduct one point for each wrong word usage, even if the wrong word is correctly spelled, e.g. to, two, too; effect, affect; assure/insure or effect/affect, to/too/two and many other uncited wrong word occurrences.

20 Pts Overall Impression of Instructor: My impression of your essay will be based upon my subjective perceptions of readability, coherence of the arguments offered, and the level of effort evidenced in the overall presentation. I will base this component on my subjective assessment of the relative strength of the essays as a group.

Additional Factors:

This assignment is an essay, not a research paper. Be sure to understand the difference between these two types of papers and write accordingly. I am not interested in your citing what others believe. I am interested in what you think and how well you communicate.

If the WORD for Windows “Word Count” exceeds 2000 words or is less than 1000 words, I will deduct 20 Organization points from the final grade **after all other grading is completed.** This could result in less than 0 points for Organization!

If the essay is submitted late, e.g. after the beginning of class on the due date, I will deduct 20 Content points from the final grade **after all other grading is completed.** This could result in less than 0 points for Content!

The essay must be double-spaced in 12 point New Times Roman with 1-inch margins. If you deviate from this format, I will deduct 10 Organization points from your final grade **after all other grading is completed.** This could result in less than 0 points for Organization!

I strongly suggest that your writing process include topic outlines, sentence outlines, and at least three drafts as you seek to refine and focus your presentation. I will not review any outlines or drafts. **I will presume that you submit your final, best effort.**

The Session 04 reading assignment referenced in this assignment will be available when CANVAS releases Week 04 materials.