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Dear Professor Santos,

According to the Federal Trade Commission, 1,108,609 people have reported identity theft in 2022. Twenty-one years earlier that number was only 86,250 in 2001, more than ten times less. The numbers previously stated are just the cases that were reported, it does not even count cases that were not reported or detected. In 2017 Equifax, a consumer credit reporting agency, had a data breach that resulted in 145 million people's personal information being stolen. That is 145 million potential cases of identity theft in that incident alone. The reason I am stating these statistics is that identity theft is just one type of crime that is facilitated by cyber technology. There are many more cases of cyber-crimes and crimes in general that cyber technology has made easier for criminals to commit. Some of those crimes include crimes such as credit card fraud, corporate espionage, cyber bullying, and child pornography. Those I have listed above are known cyber-crimes however, there are many more crimes to consider in regards to cyber technology. It is undeniable that over time cyber technology has developed immensely from a bulky computer the size of a room to a little pocket computer that everyone carries with them every day. Along with its development, is the increasing use of cyber technology and the amount of personal information that is stored in the cloud that can be used against us in crimes such as identity theft. The study of cyber technology and cyber-crime is not an unfamiliar topic, but what I do intend to cover and understand through my research is cyber technology's relationship with all types of crime. It would be greatly beneficial to understand cyber technology's role as well as how the criminal landscape has shifted. Although all crime is important, study on my topic can direct our focus towards certain types of crime that should be prioritized as well as predict who may commit those crimes in the future. In order to focus my topic, I have come up with one research question. **How has the development and increasing use of cyber technology affected the types and perpetrators of crimes?**

As a cybersecurity major, it is essentially my job to study cyber technology from its history, to its application, and to its role in a social science viewpoint. Understanding cybersecurity techniques and cyber technology are important but what is also important is understanding how cybersecurity and cyber technology as a whole has affected society and human behavior. It allows us to come up with and to take preventative measures before incidents occur. So, why look at crime specifically? As a child, watching shows such as Forensic Files and Law and Order has piqued my interest in criminology and criminal justice enough to consider careers in those fields. Despite my major, I still do intend to enter a field that requires knowledge in criminology and criminal justice. In the future, I intend to have a career in digital forensics

which combines both knowledge of cyber technology as well as criminal justice. Thus, this research into cyber technology and its impact on crime is not only relevant due to my interest in both but is also relevant to my potential future career.

As I've previously stated, the study of cyber technology and cyber-crime themselves are not unfamiliar territory. In the article "Cyber Crime: How Technology Makes It Easy and What to Do About It" published in *Information Systems Management*, Brad Oates goes into detail to discuss how technology made committing specifically cyber-crime easier. Although I am looking at crime in general, the article does help in establishing the relationship between cyber technology and crime by discussing the increase of cyber-crime thus, revealing how the criminal landscape has shifted. Furthermore, the book *Technocrime* by Stephane Leman-Langlois introduces the concept of *technocrime* which is the relationship between technology, crime and the criminal justice system. Through this work, the relationship between technology and crime in general can be established. With the two sources stated above, I am confident that I will be able to discover more sources that will help me shed light on how the development and increasing use of cyber technology affected the types and perpetrators of crimes.

Thank you for taking time out of your day to read my research proposal. I do hope this letter has convinced you to consider my topic or at the very least piqued your interest.

Sincerely,  
Angelica Grace Castro