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Reflective writing

Throughout this course, I came across a wide range of thought-provoking material. Covering many different situations that bring to question the ethical and moral implications of someone's action. This course explored topics of privacy, data ethics, whistleblowing, corporate social responsibility, professional ethics, cyber conflict, and information warfare. Each topic brought forth different types of ethical and moral complexities. Proving that ethics is a complex topic that everyone can interpret differently. In the process of analyzing these topics, there were various ethical perspectives explored in this course. This introduced new perspectives as well as a new way of understanding how society functions. Examining the topics from a different ethical perspective to break down the topics more deeply. The three major topics I engaged with in this course were data ethics, whistleblowing, and virtue ethics.

In order to engage with the topic of data ethics we had to investigate the collection of user data by companies. I argued that the collection of user data by companies can quickly turn unethical. This depends on the manner in which the companies are collecting the data as well as what data they are collecting. Everyone's user data is collected by most companies whether they know it or not. Which can lead to the user's rights being violated. This is done when the companies misappropriate user data or are selling the users' data to other companies.

Prior to taking this course and exploring this topic, I didn't know much about data ethics. Looking more into user data and the potential ethical issues shocked me. For most of my life, I have never really paid attention to what companies are allowed to do thinking that they would act in an ethical manner. This course brought to light the capabilities companies have when it comes to gathering personal data on individuals. Making me realize that I need to be more aware of what I am signing up for when I download apps or interact with companies. Another takeaway I got from examining data ethics was that there is very little transparency on what data is being collected. Companies use this lack of transparency to gather information about users and use the users' information in a way that many would not agree with. I think that if there was more transparency around data collection it would reduce the likelihood that companies can misappropriate users' data.

Whistleblowing is a complex ethical topic because it can be tricky to determine if the person is acting in a moral and just way. Before this class, my only knowledge of whistleblowing was the Snowden case. Going into this topic, I knew that whistleblowing was a topic that many disagree on depending on the way you see it. In my stance, Snowden was moral and acting out of the interest of public welfare. While this could be argued by many that he was trying to expose the government in a malicious way.

Learning more about the topic allowed me to back up my overall opinion about whistleblowing. Allowing me to touch on the topic in a more nuanced way that better backed up my opinion. I was able to understand the complexities of loyalty and its role in whistleblowing. When attempting to understand whistleblowing you have to determine what loyalty means in a corporate setting. Depending on a person's understanding of

loyalty can determine whether they feel whistleblowing is a loyal or un-loyal action. In my eyes whistleblowing is a loyal action if it is done in order to better the company you are whistleblowing about. My key takeaway from this topic was that loyalty is a two-way street. That both the employee and the employer have to strive to be loyal to each other. This is an important thing for me to remember going forward in life because when I get a job, I will be sure to take notice of how the employer is acting. Making sure that the efforts I am putting in are being matched.

One ethical perspective that I connected with was virtue ethics. This ethical perspective focuses on the characteristics and virtues of a person. Instead of approaching ethics in a way that looks at the consequences of action. This perspective looks at a person's moral character. Believing that people shouldn't act out of social obligations or because it is a duty to. Rather virtue ethics believe that virtuous people are just morally good people due to the virtuous characteristics that they uphold. This, in turn, is what drives their decision-making process.

Prior to learning about this ethical perspective, I think I followed a more consequential perspective. This perspective challenged my previous views and offered me a new way to look at life. Instead of looking at things in life from an external perspective, virtue ethics looks more internally. I like this because it relies on the individual to become more virtuous. My takeaway would be that I need to work on becoming more virtuous and developing more virtuous characteristics. Attempting to become a better person to benefit others around me.

Overall, this course allowed me to engage with various topics that each taught me different things. Bettering my understanding of the world and the different ethical

perspectives that people live life by. Going forward in life I will try to implement the things I learned in this class in order to help me become a well-rounded individual.