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Reflection Essay

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During this past semester, I have been pushed out of my comfort zone, in a good way, on almost every case analysis we have done. I came into this course with many preconceived ideas and assumptions and by this point I have maintained many but have evolved in some areas. One of the first topics we analyzed was privacy. I had known about Google Street View and had even used the service many times. I had never thought about the fact that personal images of my home, license plates, or even personal image could be used without my consent. One thing I found interesting was Luciano Floridi's explanation of how people are not critically reflecting on what a 360 view of our private lives entails. This made me question just how willing I am to give up my own privacy for entertainment or convenience. This analysis made me also question why there was not more prolonged friction created against Google when they implemented Street View and why Google did not seem to care. Floridi's observation of the complacency of individuals to give up their privacy rights so readily gave me the takeaway that privacy is a right that should be protected at all costs, and we must be careful not to become content with companies trampling on these rights.

The Case that had the biggest impact on me would have to be the analysis of professional ethics. I have been on the side of "just do what you're told" in jobs I have had in the past and not seen a reason to speak up if I thought my actions were unethical because the order was coming from someone higher up the ladder. Reading the article "The Code I'm still Ashamed Of" put a lot of things in perspective for

me and showed that many times in life, and our jobs, we tend to not think of the consequences of our actions. We simply do what ever we are told to do and ask very few questions. My takeaway here would be to always think about what consequences my actions may have on others and if I am being told to do something unethical, speak up.

One Case I struggled with was the analysis on cyber conflict. I began with the presumption that the cyber conflict inherited by Trump was not a “just” conflict. This was until I started trying to argue this point using Confucianism. I was under the misconception that Confucianism teaches to not intervein with other’s paths and stay on your own. What I found that changed my preconceived idea was that Confucianism in fact teaches us to make moral choices based on the consideration of the full situation and the people involved in it. When I saw this, it changed my whole outlook on the situation. I then argued that the cyber conflict inherited was indeed a just conflict. My takeaway here would be that I should consider the full situation in all cases and make the right choices based on the benefit of all involved.