Reflective Writing Assignment

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The course PHIL 355E, named Cybersecurity Ethics at Old Dominion University, required me to truly engage with the concepts presented in its modules. While a wide variety of topics, perspectives, and positions were described and discussed in this course, three stand out the most to me. Firstly, in order to utilize a specific ethical philosophy or moral theory (which were deemed "ethical tools") within my case analyses, I had to demonstrate that I understood the theory well-enough through a short story analysis and a short response paper. I feel that by taking this approach to "unlocking" these ethical principles, I gained a deeper level of philosophy and theory comprehension versus if there was no process to demonstrate proper understanding. It allowed me to demonstrate that I understood the theory well and was then able to analyze a piece of writing to apply the ethical principle appropriately and thoughtfully. This approach to learning ethical principles also taught me how much more satisfying it is to feel as though you truly understand something compared to just receiving and sometimes only temporarily retaining it.

The second topic that left a lasting impact on my understanding was the module that the class had concerning data ethics and specifically ethical concerns surrounding user data privacy online. The case in this module involved the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). I was asked to analyze professional and academic scholarly articles alongside the GDPR and then apply it to the question of whether or not the United States should look towards adopting a similar type of legislation. By taking the time to read the papers and look closer at the European Union's GDPR, I came to understand different data collection policies and various data usage agreements that exist currently within the United States. I was able to observe and learn about how little data protections the United States has federally established and further examine how some of the policies within the GDPR could be used to improve the current state of ethical data usage policy within my own country. I was able to truly

learn and take away knowledge from this module to the point that I feel like I could have a knowledge conversation with a friend or colleague about the topic.

The last example is another module that I feel was impactful on my level of learning and overall knowledge was the module this class covered on cyberconflict and global cyberwarfare. As with most of the topics covered within this course, I had some baseline knowledge concerning the presence and potential for cyberwarfare in today's evolving cyberspace. This module's case required me to analyze the cyber war occurring between Isreal and Iran along with the implications brought about by the concept of cyberwarfare itself. This module required me to expand my understanding of both the case itself and the current state of modern warfare tactics along with its ethical implications. Once again, just like the previous module I described, I feel as though I walked away from this module (along with this entire course) with a deeper understanding of the case and the concept overall.