

EDC SQ 09 Section 3
Ankenman/Duggan
Individual Essay Assignment

Description: All students in EDC II are required to develop an individual essay of 4-5 pages (standard 12-pt. font, double-spaced) addressing a connection between engineering and ethics. The essay should advance a thesis related to an ethical dilemma, a case study involving ethical violations, or a principle of ethical behavior in an engineering/design/production/use context. Each student will be responsible for choosing his or her own topic and completing all parts of the process as detailed below.

Rationale: The individual essay serves to engage students in a process of thinking, writing, and revising that parallels the process of design. Students learn to use writing as a tool for exploring a topic, developing a position, and clarifying their thinking. As a result, students will produce a piece of polished writing that reflects the distillation of their thought process.

Process: Students will explore topics initially through brainstorming in class, examining posted examples on Blackboard, and attending EDC lectures. After choosing a topic in consultation with the writing instructor, students will research their topics and develop a draft for peer and instructor review. Following in-class feedback sessions, students will revise essays.

Resources: EDC textbook, section 28.2
Potential topics list in “course documents” on Blackboard
NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers
Class lectures 2.0 and 3.0
Print and non-print resources (review section 2.3 in textbook)

Due Dates: Topic Statements due Session 2.1, April 7
Essay Rough Draft due Session 4.1, April 21
Revised Essay (with all process materials) due Session 8.1, May 19

Guidelines: Start thinking right away about potential topics. Develop a thesis based upon your research and thinking, then organize specific evidence to support your view. Keep all notes, peer review forms, and drafts to submit with final draft. Share questions/concerns with your writing instructor along the way. All resources must be cited and documented properly using an approved system (MLA, APA, etc.).

Good luck!