Final Paper – Computers as Ethical Machines

Minimum 2500 words

Topic:
The class has dealt with the technology of computers and what effects these machines have on the society as a whole. Looking at the entire breath of computers, draw a common thread from the history of computers and project it into the future. Your submission will discuss what are the effects of having these machines in our lives and what ethical issues they pose. Finally, your paper will need to answer the question: “In summation, has the influence of computers been advantageous or detrimental to society?”

Goal:
The goal for this paper is to produce a cohesive article that combines your previous papers into a larger position paper about the role of computers in society. The work should have a common thread that connects all three articles by introducing new verbiage and ideas that fit everything together.

Comments and Suggestions:

• This is the paper where you get to state your opinion, but reasoning must be provided to support your opinion.
• Focus on are how society is changing and, by using your single thread, suggest how life might be getting better, getting worse, or consistently the same.
• Use of ethical terminology becomes very important for this paper, thus, focus on what ethical system you subscribe to and how this system identifies what is good or bad about the use of computers.
• The paper should directly pull your arguments from the previous two papers.
• Remember the larger goal of the class, learning to think through your writing and using process writing to achieve this.

General requirements and info:

• The paper will not be written in 1st person.
• All information in the article will be attributed.
• References do not contribute to word count.
• All references can be in the format of your choosing, but must provide enough information to find the reference.
• There should be enough references to cover the described material.
• The references must come from three or more major sources, so you cannot rely exclusively on a single source (like the New York Times).
• There are many good accessible magazines from the ACM and IEEE
  o Communications of the ACM
  o IEEE Computer
  o IEEE Annals of the History of Computing

Important Dates:

Week 9 Monday (3/28/16) – Assignment Distributed.
Week 10 Wednesday (4/06/16) – 200-word abstract.
Week 11 Wednesday (4/13/16) – WA draft on Moodle and determine meeting time.
Week 14 Friday (5/06/16) – Final Draft due on the Moodle.