

Assignment 2
INFO 203, Spring 2007

- 1) This assignment is due on Thursday, April 19th.
- 2) Bring TWO stapled copies to class.
- 3) Papers should be double-spaced, 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman).

Essay (100%)

Answer this essay question in 600-800 words.

Find a job listing for a job that you would actually apply for after you graduate*. You can use any source for this job listing. If you happen to already have a job lined up (or plan to keep a job you already have), this will work as well. If you do not already have a few specific ideas, there are many websites and job posting boards that list jobs (Monster.com, CareerBuilder.com, Craigslist.com, etc). If you plan to pursue an academic position, you may want to try the Chronicle of Higher Education (www.chronicle.com). Don't spend a long time trying to find the perfect job – a representative one will do fine.

Make sure you include the job description on a separate sheet of paper stapled to your essay. If it is very long, please include a 1 paragraph summary. Obviously, the job description does not apply to the required word count.

Suppose you interview for this job (if it's a job you already have and intend to keep, let's say you are interviewing for a major promotion). Let us assume that the interview goes very well and they are extremely impressed with your technical skills and education. However, at some point the interviewer is curious why you chose the iSchool to get your degree. You explain that a big part of it is the fabulous faculty, but the interviewer is less interested in people, and more interested in understanding how social science fits in with their job.

Write a response to the query from your potential employer that clearly addresses the following two questions:

- a. How do at least **two** different social science theories and/or research areas covered in this course potentially apply to one or more specific aspects in this job? **At least one** of these topic areas must come from material presented on or after week 6 (e.g., Privacy and Surveillance, Tacit and Explicit Knowledge, Social Issues in CMC, Trust, Reputation, etc). Remember to be specific, and cite relevant examples from our course materials.
- b. Demonstrate your knowledge of how *both* quantitative and qualitative social science research could be useful to your potential employer. Again, be as specific

as you can with respect to both the job and the research approaches, and cite relevant examples from our course materials.

Important Notes:

Since the 'audience' for this essay is a potential employer, it should be written with this in mind. You cannot assume that she knows about specific authors or articles that we have read. It is your job to *explain* the relevant research to her. **HOWEVER**, do cite all of your sources to show us what readings from the class you are drawing from.

* We are not putting restrictions on what type of job you might be interested in getting after you graduate. Please use a real job description for a job to which you might apply (or would apply for if you weren't busy at the time).