

IPRO Team Ethics Assignment

Ethics Presentation and Case Study Discussions

Description of Exercise

Students will divide into small groups and chose/be assigned an ethics topic directly related to their IPRO project. These topics can be chosen by the faculty advisor, or they come from a brainstorming session held with the team. Groups will be asked to prepare a short presentation on their topic covering an overview of their subject and applicable professional guidelines and/or laws. The goal of the presentation is to help their classmates gain a basic understanding of the main aspects of the ethical issue. For example, a presentation on conflict of interest should answer the following questions:

What is a conflict of interest?

How do conflicts of interests arise?

What are ways of avoiding conflicts of interest, or dealing with conflicts when they arise?

What kinds of policies have organizations put in place in order to deal with potential and real conflicts of interest?

Students will also find and present an ethics case study related to their topic accompanied by a list of questions they have developed about the case, and use these questions to conduct a 10-15 minute case study discussion with their IPRO team. Students are welcome to contact the Ethics Center Library for help with research and with selecting appropriate case studies.

The final deliverable will be a written summary of each group's presentation (including properly cited sources), presentation materials used, a copy of the case study and questions, and a summary of the case discussion. The faculty advisor can also require a short individual response from each group member.

Student Competency Level

Beginning. Good for helping students develop a basic understanding of key ethical issues in their project.

Time Commitment

- 1-2 Hours researching ethics topic and selecting case study, developing questions, putting together presentation.
- 20-25 Minutes for in-class presentation and case discussion (per group).
- 30-40 Minutes writing up case discussion summary.

Tasks Involved

1. Assign ethics topics to be covered and break up into presentation groups.
2. Perform research on ethics topic and put together presentation.
3. Select appropriate case study and write accompanying questions.
4. Give presentation and lead case discussion.
5. Write up presentation and case discussion summary.

Required Deliverables

Slides used and a written summary of the presentation (including properly cited sources), a copy of the case and questions, and a short summary of the case discussion held and how the team answered the questions about the case. The final summary should (if required by instructor) also include a paragraph from each student in the group reflecting on the presentation and the case discussion. Some questions to answer include:

How has your research and the class discussion about the case changed your original position about your case study?

Did your understanding of the main ethical issue(s) in the case become clearer or more convoluted?

What resources exist to help you find a solution to the main ethical dilemma in your case?

Do you think ethical issues of this kind are likely to come up in your professional life after graduation from IIT? If so, in what way?

This deliverable should be uploaded to iGroups by the deadline set each semester by the IPRO Program.