

MMI 407 Criticism Paper

For this Criticism Paper project, students will be asked to choose a journal article, white paper or governmental policy statement, from a list provided by the Instructor. These articles/papers may either be rather controversial or are an older, somewhat outdated document. Students will write a thoughtful and critical response to the chosen paper, including a rigorous critique of the author's conclusions or recommendations (either in support of or in opposition to the author), and an updated or improved conclusion and recommendations for follow-up.

HINT: It is *not* necessary to address each and every point in your chosen article/paper, so long as those points you choose to address in your paper are rigorously critiqued.

The academic goals of this student Criticism Paper project are to recognize that the legal, ethical and social issues in the field of medical informatics are continually evolving; to develop greater facility with using and applying the legal terminology and concepts studied in class; as well as to develop the ability to analyze, criticize and construct rigorous policy-oriented arguments involving healthcare data handling.

Students are expected to apply as much of the legal and regulatory framework, and as many of the ethical and social concerns studied in class, as are relevant to the paper.

It is important for students to understand that the Instructor is *not* grading your Criticism Paper on whether your ultimate position is right or wrong, and it does *not* matter if the Instructor agrees with the original author or not... rather the grade will largely depend on the rigor of the student's analysis; that is, the original thought process you demonstrate in constructing and supporting your arguments and your recommendations. Students are strongly encouraged to use outside references in the paper to support your analysis.

HINT: Be careful that you don't simply explain or rephrase an author's points and make that your paper. *That is the single biggest reason students lose points on this project.* Instead, you should criticize or react to those points in a thoughtful way, providing support for your position.

Each student shall:

1. Read several journal articles or white papers from the Instructor's list, and choose one that provokes or incites the student to a strong response or opinion about the author's position or conclusion or recommendations; and
2. Submit a Paper that is 10-15 pages, double spaced, standard margins...Please be sure to identify in your Paper which article you have chosen.

HINT: Based on the experience of hundreds of students, it is vastly easier to do a Criticism Paper on an article with which you disagree or which has generated a strong, maybe even visceral, response, as opposed to an article with which you wholly agree. But it is your choice.

NOTE: This Criticism Paper project represents 20% of the Project grade for MMI 407