Senior Seminar: Communication and Media Ethics

Spring 2013 (Dr. Holba)

Personal Code of Ethics

Assignment Description and Rubric

There are three stages in the development of your personal code of ethics. These stages include: thinking stage, writing stage, and annotation stage. Each stage will have its own description and rubric. Please be sure to be specific in your narratives and clear/thoughtful when you list actions.

**Stage 1**

**Thinking Stage**

The **thinking stage** will be documented in the form of *organized* freewriting. Freewriting is based on stream of consciousness writing, where you write what comes into your mind as you ask yourself a set of questions. When you turn in your first draft of your personal code of ethics, make sure to finish sentences and organize these thoughts in such a way I can read it and understand your thoughts. So, you may end up with a predraft that is in the form of stream of consciousness writing but you should make sure it is coherent when you turn in the draft. The better I can understand your thoughts, the more I will be able to comment and provide constructive feedback. The thinking stage is **due as your first draft on March 11, 2013**.

The kinds of questions that open and guide your thinking stage include (but are not limited to):

* Who am I? (what descriptors would you use?)
* How would a friend describe me? (is this accurate? Why or why not?)
* How would an enemy describe me? (is this accurate? Why or why not?)
* What traits do I exemplify? (this can be in a list or narrative)

Now ask yourself:

* What do I believe? (this should include personal beliefs or private beliefs and can be about faith, reason, justice, or anything—what are the beliefs that inform how you live your life?)
* What environments concern my life? (this includes public, private, social, environmental, organizations, etc.)
* Why do I have these beliefs? (this can include aspects from social, economic, psychological, cultural, historical, or spiritual reasons)

This information will not be included in your formal personal code of ethics (at least not in this format) but this information helps you to understand yourself, yourself in relation to the other, and yourself in relation to community.

Rubric for Draft 1 of Personal Code of Ethics: Earn up to 50 Total points

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Spelling/Grammar/Structure  Up to 11 points | Content  Up to 14 points | Synthesis/Explanation of Content  Up to 25 points |
| * 3 points for spelling * 4 points for grammar (do sentences make sense grammatically?) * 4 points for structure (organization of ideas) | * 7 points - Are all of the questions indicated in assignment description answered? * 7 points - Are other questions (not indicated in assignment description) included in this thinking stage—as **follow-up thinking**? | * 10 points for adequate explanation of responses to questions * 10 points for thorough synthesis in responses to questions * 5 points overall depth and breadth of self-reflection |

**Stage 2**

**The Writing Stage**

The **writing stage** is the first step in the formal documentation of your personal code of ethics. Your personal code of ethics is comprised of three sections: purpose statement, “I will” section (a section of statements that identify your current traits and traits you hope/plan to develop), and the specific rules that will guide your communicative behavior with the other (in personal or public life). The information you use to craft this section should be informed by the efforts of your thinking stage. The writing stage will be **due as your second draft on April 15, 2013**.

Rubric for Draft 2 of Personal Code of Ethics: earn up to 100 points

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Spelling/Grammar/Sentence Structure/Clarity  Earn up to 20 points | Statements/Traits  Earn up to 40 points | Specific Rules  Earn up to 40 points |
| * Up to 5 points - three sections * Up to 5 points – spelling/grammar * Up to 10 points – sentence structure and clarity (coherent; makes sense) | * Up to 5 points for making declarative statements (“I will”) * Up to 15 points for connecting these statements with traits * Up to 20 points for connecting these statements to the traits you aspire to reach | * Up to 20 points for identifying rules for dealing with people- identify the particulars involved with ethical communicative action. * Earn up to 20 points by identifying 5 different environments (4 points per environment) |

**Stage 3**

**Annotation Stage**

The **annotation stage** is designed to ask you to return to your thinking stage and check to see if stage two, the writing stage, was informed by stage one, the thinking stage. For each listed (or indicated) declaration statement or rule, you should prepare several sentences that justify or provide rationale for why you included it in your personal code of ethics. These justifications can be in the form of statements that indicate that it is an aspiration or a current practice. The annotations should follow each section respectively. The annotation stage tells me that you reflected deeply on your topic/issue; it also shows me that you let your freewriting inform the construction of your personal code of ethics. The annotation stage is due (along with revisions from stage 2) on **May 1, 2013**.

Rubric for Final Draft of Personal Code of ethics which includes stage 3; revised stage 2, writing stage; and stage 1, thinking stage. Earn up to 100 points.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Stage 1  Thinking Stage  Earn up to 10 points | Stage 2 (revised) include both original/graded and revised version.  Earn up to 30 points | Stage 3  Annotation  Earn up to 60 points (up to 15 points for each bullet) |
| Turning in your *original* thinking stage is worth 10 points | * Revised version based upon feedback * **Includes both original/graded version with feedback and revised** version. * **It needs to be clear that here is your original part 2 with my grading and comments AND a revised part two where you address the revision comments** | * Clearly links annotation with stage 1 * Coherent and logical logos * Rationale supported by declarative statements * Articulate how this is meaningful in your life |