

Plan for Today 12/8

- More discussion of Op-Ed — due ***Monday***, December 11
- Discussion of Nathan E. Sanders and Bruce Schneier's *New York Times* Op-Ed
- Sharing students' Op-Ed topics
- Discussion about the course as a whole
- Opportunity for you to fill out your online course evaluations (I'll step out while you do this)

Op-Eds

- Op-Eds are typically (source: Harvard Kennedy School):
 - short (typically 750-800 words);
 - focused, making a clear point;
 - engaging, drawing the reader in;
 - informed by research or experience;
 - written with a strong voice (authoritative, conversational, ...);
 - written in active voice with short paragraphs (even single sentences).

Op-Ed Structure

- Opening
 - *Hooks* reader's attention with "a strong claim, a surprising fact, a metaphor, a mystery, or a counter-intuitive observation".
 - Introduces the Op-Ed's *topic*, which is typically a problem needing a solution, thus creating tension that will later be resolved.
- Middle
 - Develops the Op-Ed's *theme*, its big idea, main point.
 - Backs up your claims with facts, logic, research, quotations, personal observations.
- Ending
 - Either resolves the tension of the essay (e.g., solves the problem) or points the way forward.
 - Leaves the reader with a final thought, epiphany or call to action.

Readings on Op-Eds

- Harvard Kennedy School, “How to Write an Op-Ed or Column”. https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/files/hks-communications-program/files/new_seglin_how_to_write_an_oped_1_25_17_7.pdf
- David Shipley, “And Now a Word From Op-Ed”, *New York Times*, February 1, 2004. <https://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/01/opinion/and-now-a-word-from-op-ed.html>. [On Piazza.]

Example Op-Eds on Computer Science Topics

[On Piazza]

- Matthew D. Green and Alex Stamos, “Apple Wants to Protect Children. But It’s Creating Serious Privacy Risks.”, *New York Times*, August 11, 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/11/opinion/apple-iphones-privacy.html>.
- Nathan E. Sanders and Bruce Schneier, “How ChatGPT Hijacks Democracy”, *New York Times*, January 15, 2023. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/15/opinion/ai-chatgpt-lobbying-democracy.html>.
- Stuart Russell, “How to Stop Superhuman A.I. Before It Stops Us”, *New York Times*, October 8, 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/08/opinion/artificial-intelligence.html>.
- Gary Marcus and Ernest Davis, “No, A.I. Won’t Solve the Fake News Problem”, *New York Times*, October 20, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/20/opinion/sunday/ai-fake-news-disinformation-campaigns.html>.

Your Op-Ed Assignment

- You will write a single Op-Ed.
 - Length: 750-800 words.
 - Topic: a connection between computer science and society.
- You can produce the PDF for your Op-Ed however you like.
- Due: Monday, December 11.

Discussion of Nathan E. Sanders and Bruce Schneier's Op-Ed

- Nathan E. Sanders and Bruce Schneier, “How ChatGPT Hijacks Democracy”.
- Who are the authors, and what is their expertise?
- What is the Op-Ed about?
- How does it measure up to the Op-Ed guidelines?

Sharing Students' Op-Ed Topics

- Let's go around the room with every student talking briefly about their intended Op-Ed topic and approach.
- If you are having trouble narrowing down what you want to write about, what are your options?

Discussion on Writing about CS and Society

- What do you think about the range of topics you read and wrote about in this course?
 - Were there topics you especially liked?
 - Topics you especially didn't like?
 - Topics you missed?
 - Did you like being able to choose the topics of your Major Paper and Op-Ed?

Discussion on Writing about CS and Society

- What do you think about how I separated the course into three parts (summary and analysis, major essay, op-eds)?
 - Do you have a favorite part?
 - A least favorite part?
 - Are there other writing forms you think would work well in this course?
- Did the feedback I gave you help you improve your writing?
 - What other help would have been useful?

Discussion on Writing about CS and Society

- Do you feel your CS background helped in understanding technical issues even when the topic wasn't one you had studied in a course?
- How (if at all) do you think this course will help you in your future career?

Course Evaluations

- I'll step out of the room so you can complete the online course evaluations.
- To access and submit an evaluation, use any portable smart device (phone, tablet, laptop...) and type the following URL into your internet browser's search field:

<https://bu.edu/courseeval/>

- Enter your BU login name and Kerberos Password. Complete the particular evaluation assigned to you for this particular course.
- Your evaluations are anonymous, and I will not receive results until after all final grades have been submitted.
- Comments in the text fields are valued and encouraged. Please try to answer all questions, but if a question is not applicable to you or you do not wish to answer it, then simply skip it.