

CRAFTING EFFECTIVE ARGUMENTS

**SUMMARY, ANALYSIS, SYNTHESIS,
AND THE RECURSIVE NATURE OF
WRITING**

for Ethics in Technology

Presented by Chloe Crull

UCDAVIS Writing Center

Agenda

- **Prompt review**
- **Summary, Analysis, Synthesis**
- **Recursive nature of writing**
- **Writing Center services**

Prompt Review

~1,500-word paper exploring a technology/topic as discussed by a range of authors in 5 sources, with ethical questions clearly outlined

Milestone 1 (proposal) due October 9*

Milestone 2 (rough draft) due November 6*

Final draft due November 25

The term paper will be graded over a total of 100 pts, with the following rubrics:

- **Overall presentation / spelling / grammar / style / references: 30 pts**

Fits with the requirements (i.e. between 1200 and 1800 words; needs to provide word count on first page)	5 pts
Grammar /spelling (1 pt off for each error detected, until down to 0)	10 pts
Organization / style	5 pts
References at the end of document: at least 5, 3 of which need to be reviewed, and published in a scientific journal	10 pts

- **Presentation of the technology/topic and ethical problems: 20 pts**

The technology/topic is presented clearly enough that it can be understood by a non specialist	10 pts
The ethical questions are clearly outlined	10 pts

- **What the "experts" say: 25 pts**

Covers range of opinions (at least 3 different experts, out of which at least one should oppose the others)	20 pts
Depth and breadth of research (i.e. beyond a single paper / book)	5 pts

- **Analysis and thesis: 25 pts**

Analysis of what the "experts" say	15 pts
Your point of view / own voice	10 pts

Summary	Analysis	Synthesis
Objective reporting of main idea	Critical examination of ideas	Combining ideas from multiple sources
Concise representation of source material	Questioning assumptions and reasoning	Identifying connections and contrasts
Answers, “What does the source say?”	Answers, “What are the implications or significance?”	Answers, “How do these sources relate, build on each other, and extend or complicate the larger conversation?”
Goal: To accurately convey the original content	Goal: To offer new insights or evaluations and form reasoned judgements	Goal: To create new understanding from multiple sources and explore the development of ideas and actions within a broader topic



Writing is recursive and cyclical



We are not only learning to write,
but we are also writing to learn.

Writing is a process, not a product

UC DAVIS Writing Center

One-on-one, 50-minute consultations for all students, staff, and faculty

- Any stage of the writing process
- Research papers, cover letters, applications—any piece of writing, really!
- In-person (fourth floor of the TLC) or online
- One appointment per day, two per week
- Writing Partnerships (meet regularly with the same consultant)