Writing Assignments:

Format: 2-4 page paper, 12 point times new roman, normal margins, single spaced, referenced using the format of your choice (but need to be properly applied and consistent). Turn in hard-copy at the start of lecture when it is due.

Topics:

Paper 1: Using Ethical frameworks to argue pro’s and cons of actions.
Over the last few years we have seen an increased use of social media site and mobile technologies in organizing and supporting social protest movements and citizen reporting of human right abuses, violations of laws, or corruption. Sometimes private individuals spearhead these movements with the support of technology companies against governments.

Find an example of a recent major, documented in the press, real-world event in which technology was used to expose or foment debate/change with the active support or resistance of technology company.

a. Justify that the event that you have picked fits this criteria, citing sources.
b. Support the actions of the company based on a workable ethical framework presented in class.
c. Present an argument for why the actions were not justified using the same or a different workable ethical framework

Paper 2: Explain how the concept of Open Source fits into the
legal framework of intellectual property rights as defined in the United States.

1. Define what open source is
2. Describe how intellectual property rights can be protected for Open Source projects
3. Describe how the concept of intellectual property rights might be at odds with the Open Source movement or definition

**Paper 3: Internet addiction.**

Disconnect from the Internet for a period of 48 continuous hours.

- You are not allowed to access email, play online games, stream movies, surf the web, use facebook, tweet, etc., or be in the presence of people who are doing these things (for group activities like watching movies, or watching others play games, surf the web etc.)
- These 48 hours must occur in a normal setting, no going off camping, shutting yourself off from the world etc. you must attempt to engage in what would be normal day-to-day activities over that period of time.
- Document your experience; what did you end up doing differently, what was hardest about this assignment, what did you miss the most, what did you find most disruptive, what were the reactions of those around you.
- Finally, what was the most rewarding part of doing this assignment, and what did you learn about your own relationship to technology.