

Assignment 3. Risks and Challenges
Big Data, Education, and Society
Spring 2020

Post due 4/10 9am

In this sub-project, the third sub-project in the class, you will conduct an assessment of the primary risks and challenges to the project you initially proposed in the first assignment. You should do this assignment in the same group you worked with in the first and second assignments (or you should do this assignment alone, if you did those assignments alone).

The goal of this assignment is to assess what the key risks and challenges are to the project you initially proposed in the first assignment. What elements or factors may prevent this project from succeeding? This should be conceived broadly:

- What are the technical challenges to your project? Is new technology needed (and how similar to existing technology is it?) Are there significant challenges to validity or quality for your system that will need to be overcome?
- What are the data access challenges to your project? Does the data already exist or will it be produced naturally through technologies that are clearly feasible? Are there likely to be privacy concerns or commercial factors that may prevent you from obtaining the data you need?
- What are the adoption challenges to your project? What factors may prevent key stakeholders from adopting your project? What factors may lead some key stakeholders to resist adopting your project?
- What are the implementation fidelity challenges to your project?
- Are there any political challenges, at the governmental, regional, local, or general public levels, that may hinder or prevent your project from succeeding?
- Are there any other challenges/risks that may cause your project to be ineffective or otherwise fail, even if all of these factors are accounted for?
- For the purposes of this assignment, please assume that the COVID-19 crisis is over and that another major disruption of this nature does not need to be planned for.

You should post to the same thread you initially created in Canvas.

Your post should consist of the following content:

- 1) Brief statement reminding the reader of your project. It is allowable to self-plagiarize your first and second assignments for this class here.
- 2) *List of risks and challenges.* You must list *at least* four risks or challenges for your project. Then, for each challenge or risk, briefly explain (with sufficient detail to make yourself clear, but in no prescribed format):

- a. What could happen?
- b. Why would it happen? What factors or processes would cause it to happen?
- c. What negative outcome(s) could be produced? (Please justify why these outcomes could occur, either here or in b).
- d. What steps could you take to prevent this risk/challenge from becoming an actuality? Or, alternatively, what steps could you take to mitigate the risk/challenge's effects, preventing the negative outcomes you identify even if the risk/challenge takes place?

No citations are required for this assignment, as it is speculative in nature. (They are not forbidden, however).

There are no specific length limits insofar as you achieve the assignment's goals; however, posts that are too brief to provide appropriate detail will be graded down, and posts that are painfully long to read may not receive useful feedback.

You are not required to provide feedback on your classmates' assignments.

Grading criteria

Your proposal will be graded in terms of:

- Whether you identify realistic risks and challenges. For example, I would grade down an assignment that identified trivially easy or essentially impossible risks and challenges, while ignoring more realistic risks and challenges identified by your classmates and instructor in posts on past assignments.
- Logical processes/factors/negative outcomes.
- Good discussion of prevention and mitigation approaches, and choice of appropriate, realistic, and ethical approaches. For example, I would grade down an assignment that suggested a political mud-smearing campaign of lies against a school district superintendent who opposed your educational intervention.

Proposals may also be graded down for lack of clarity or comprehensibility in writing.

Late Submissions. Extensions are available upon request to students in need of an extension due to the COVID-19 crisis.