

"Expert Seminar" Project Information



What are we doing?

In this project you will investigate a current IT-related topic in more depth than the course materials provide. The topics are listed below. They are intentionally broad, so there are plenty of articles on each topic. You'll be working in small groups.

The purpose of this project is for you to become the "expert" on your chosen topic and to become familiar with topics from other groups. You will be teachers when *your* topic is the one being discussed; you will be learners when the other topics are discussed.

List of Topics

- Topic #1: Hacking/cracking/phreaking
This topic focuses on the users who break into computer and phone systems without the owners' knowledge or permission.
- Topic #2: Web and e-mail use in the workplace: employers' and employees' rights
This topic focuses on work-related and personal uses of e-mail and the Web at work.
- Topic #3: Software piracy, copyright infringement
This topic examines what a copyright is and how the copyright laws are applied to software, music, writings, etc., that are distributed electronically.
- Topic #4: Encryption relating to security and Web commerce
This topic looks at what encryption is and how it enables Web commerce and privacy.
- Topic #5: Privacy and database marketing
This topic examines the prevalence of database marketing and how it relates to individuals' privacy rights.

Guidelines for Articles:

You may use articles that are (approximately) less than 2 years old. For example, any article published before December 1996 would be too old.

How to get from here to there:



Familiarize yourself with the topic:

- ✎ Week 2: First, choose a topic to investigate.
- ✎ Week 3: Next, you will work individually to gather **three** relevant articles for your topic. *Find the best articles you can. Look for depth and relevance.* You will read each article and make brief notes as to its strengths and weaknesses. (5 points)
- ✎ Week 4: Then, you will meet with the other students who chose the same topic as you. In your first “expert group” meeting, you’ll present the ideas in your articles to your group—you’ll also listen to the other folks in your group as they present their articles. You will find out that these topics are complex—don’t worry if it seems like the articles seem to be “all over the map.” *The result of this step is that you will become familiar with the broad topic.*

In the same meeting, the group will choose **one aspect** of the topic as a focus for the seminar that it will present. You’ll have one or more articles from your research that are specific to your chosen focus. The group will have to make enough copies of these articles so that each person can have one. Read these articles before your next group meeting. (5 points)

Become an expert:

- ✎ Week 5: Now that you have a specific focus, each person in your group will find *one additional article* on that specific topic. Once you have found your article, make a copy for each member of the group. Give the copies of your article to group members. You’ll receive copies of the other group members’ articles. Read all articles before your next expert group meeting. (5 points)
- ✎ Week 5: In the next expert group meeting, members choose the five best articles to use for the discussion sessions.
- ✎ Week 5 & 6: On your own time, each member prepares three discussion questions.
- ✎ Week 6: Groups meet to finalize the discussion questions—each group decides on the best 5 questions. (5 points)
- ✎ On Friday of Week 6, the group will turn in five copies of each of its five articles (clipped, not stapled) and five copies of its typed questions. Anne will then put these packets on reserve in the library. (10 points)
- ✎ Each student will bring typed responses to his or her group’s seminar questions. Typed responses will be due on the same day we have your “Expert Group” scheduled. (10 points)

Teach others:

- ✎ The culmination of this project is the expert discussion groups. Each student is now an “expert” on his or her chosen topic. When it’s your group’s turn, one person from your “expert group” will help lead another group’s discussion on the topic.

Note to instructor: This sheet would be handed out to the students as a guide for formatting their discussion questions.

**(TEMPLATE FOR)
EXPERT GROUP QUESTIONS**

Name of person who prepared this sheet
Date

Expert Group Broad Topic: The original, broad topic as stated in “Expert Groups” handout

Specific group topic: The topic you decided upon after discussing the broad topic

Members:

- List the members in your group in alphabetical order by last name

Articles:

- List the article titles, authors and source
- *Example: “Stealth Trojans,” Commander Crash, 2600 Magazine, Autumn 1995*

Questions:

- List the discussion questions