Overview of “Short Paper” on Societal Implications of Computing
Requirements

• 2–3 typed, single-spaced pages (4 okay...)

• Do *NOT* plagiarize (ask if you have questions)

• You may show me a draft; I will provide some sort of example

• 0–5 sources okay

• Approx. 1/2 *description* of issue raised in class and 1/2 informed, rational *opinion*
Example topics from last time

• Using 3rd-party libraries in an application
• Computers that should never be put on the Internet
• Whether code should indicate the “expertise” of the writer
• How could one be “negligent” when writing software
• ...
Grading

Looking for *crisp, dense, rational* writing

- Make every sentence count.
- Have a point and make it.
- Writing computer-science text has similarities with writing code.

(Of course), it does not matter whether I agree with you. But you should agree with you; write something you care about.
Writing Example

Terrible:

There are a lot of issues related to bad software and where it comes from. I will discuss some of these issues. For example, one issue is whether software comes from a for-profit company or if instead it comes from just one individual like you or me. Another issue is how much the consumer pays for software, a little or a lot.

Good:

When considering the source of bad software, we should consider the entity creating the software (e.g., a for-profit company or an individual hobbyist) and the cost (if any) of the software.