Ethics Assignment
Write a 2-page essay on aspect of scientific ethics

OR

On a legal or philosophical problem in science or history of science

*Problem* is a key word

**Organization**

State the problem explicitly
Don’t be afraid to do some research!
Use references (Examples: Are there criteria for discarding data? What do the courts say about fair use?)
Consider alternative solutions
Choose the “best” solution, given your constraints
Draw *firm* conclusion

**References**

Not required but certainly needed for many topics
Possible topics

Deborah’s culling of data (from NAS book)
Rejecting data in general; extrapolating from data
Fraud in science
Plagiarism (from NAS book, or plagiarism in general)

Ben’s nondisclosure of proprietary information (not in NAS book)
Patent infringement
Industrial espionage
Should you be allowed to patent a gene?
Working for an industry or government agency whose goals you oppose
Performing university research for an industry for which you also consult

Mistreatment of students or subordinates
Unionization of faculty, grad students
Selecting coauthors and allocating credit (incl acknowledgments, reference citations)
Sharing research materials

Is string theory science?
What distinguishes science from other endeavors (demarcation problem)?
Is falsification enough?

Anything else you please
# Evaluation of Midyear Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content (60%)</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Clearly defines ethical, legal, philosophical problem</td>
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<td>2. Outlines alternative solutions</td>
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<td>3. Draws and supports conclusion</td>
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<th>Form (40%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Coherence (whole report is clear, tells well organized)</td>
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<td>2. Sentence structure (grammar, spelling, punctuation)</td>
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<td>3. Formatting (title, paragraphs, references, appearance)</td>
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