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**Paper topic assignment detailed instructions and template**

By John Bandler

Revised 8/15/2022

* You may download and save this document to your computer and use it as a template to build your assignment.
* Please follow the instructions and then remove instructions prior to submitting.
* Give your submission document a good filename.   
  e.g., STUDENTNAME PaperTopicAssign 2022-xx-xx

**Instructions:**

* See my class discussion (or video if online)
* Streamlined instructions with template are available in a separate document
* You pick a topic area relevant to the course.
  + See course discussion, materials, and a list of sample topic areas at <https://johnbandler.com/paper-topic-ideas/>
* Then you formulate a paper title relevant to the course.
* See the syllabus, coursebook, all assigned readings. Think of an issue that connects law or regulations with any of our syllabus topics.
* If you cannot decide, contact me and provide some information about what you are thinking or what problem you are wrestling with (don’t wait until the last minute please).
* Feel free to bounce any ideas off of me in advance
* Do reading and research before submission. Put in effort. This is a topic you will have to stick with throughout the semester. Choose wisely.
* The topic must be relevant to our course and syllabus and should be interesting to you.
* Invest time in this, and put thought an effort into this. Don’t wait to the last minute, and don’t be late. If your submission is not adequate, you will lose points and put yourself at a disadvantage with future submissions and the paper process.
* Remember to tie into law or regulation. Not hard to do, we are a nation of laws.
* It needs to be of proper scope and focus for a relatively short paper.
* Have fun with the process and learn. You get to pick a topic you are interested in.
* Learn about the subject matter, improve your research and writing skills, and grow.
* Follow other guidance specific to the course, and do good work commensurate with your education learning level.
* The final paper will not be long.
  + Undergraduate and graduate: Max 2,000 words (about 8 pages) not including references.
  + Law school: Max 3,000 words (about 12 pages) not including references.
* Consult my resources including
* Paper topic assignment, <https://johnbandler.com/paper-topic-assignment/>
* Paper topics, <https://johnbandler.com/paper-topic-ideas/>
* Helpful Legal Resources and Links, <https://johnbandler.com/helpful-legal-links/>
* Don’t worry about this now, but as your paper progresses throughout the semester, you can check these:
  + How to Write a Paper, <https://johnbandler.com/how-to-write-paper/>
  + Paper submission checklist, <https://johnbandler.com/paper-submission-checklist/>
  + A guide to citations and references, [https://johnbandler.com/guide-citations-references/](https://johnbandler.com/guide-citations-references/ )
  + Assignments and grading, <https://johnbandler.com/assignments-and-grading/>

**Submit a document (DOCX or PDF)**

Give your document a good filename, e.g.,

STUDENTNAME PaperTopicAssign 2022-xx-xx.docx

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Delete the instructions and explanations prior to submitting.

Confused, questions, or suggestions? Ask in class, email me prior, or include in #4 with your submission.

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**Paper topic assignment**

[YOUR NAME HERE]

[TODAY’S DATE HERE MONTH DAY, 2022]

COURSE NUMBER HERE

**1. Proposed title**

[A wonderful, crisp title that informs the reader about what the paper is about.

Communicate clearly. General rule, choose clarity over being overly clever or cute.]

**2. A single paragraph summarizing your proposed paper**

A paragraph of no more than 250 words that is crisp, well proofread and edited, and gives more information to the reader about what the paper is about

This could eventually become one of your introductory paragraphs.

Introduce and summarize your paper and what it will cover.

(Do not introduce or summarize broad concepts, such as the Internet, cybercrime, etc.)

**3. A list of references you have reviewed thus far**

List the references you have reviewed, starting with materials on our syllabus.

Don’t worry about citation form.

Include enough information so I can find the reference you are citing. Title, author, page, link, etc.

Do not worry about citation format.

Read what you have listed.

List anything relevant that is on the syllabus, or on my website.

List relevant laws or regulations, or cases (your paper is about law so you need to identify them).

Again, your research starting points are the coursebook (with chapters or pages cited), any of my articles that are relevant, and laws, regulations, or cases you will discuss.

After covering these starting points, you can expand further.

You are looking for reliable and credible references.

An example list might include:

Bandler, Merzon, Cybercrime Investigations, Ch X, Y, Z, and p 123

Bandler, Cybersecurity Laws and Regulations Part 1, <https://johnbandler.com/cybersecurity-laws-and-regulations-1/>

Statute #1 name, citation and link

Regulation #2 name, citation and link

Case # 3 name, court, citation and link

Reliable reference #4, Author, title, page, link

If it is on the syllabus, or on John’s website (and relevant) please find it, read it, and cite it. This is a start point.

Then find more references

**4. Any comments or questions for me**

[Feel free to ask a question or explain anything you are wrestling with, or just say Hi or nothing at all]