An Ethical Discussion for Intro to ECSE

Check these out…read articles related to each one….

1. 5 case studies/categories with links to websites are listed below. A group of 4 students will get together to discuss one of these categories.
2. Within each group 2 students MUST argue one side of the ethical dilemma and 2 students must argue the opposite side of that dilemma for about 15 minutes

Pick a Category:

1. Freedom of Speech: *When should a person be fired for their beliefs?*
    a. **Gender: Gender Ethics Google** https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/business-ethics/resources/googles-handling-of-the-echo-chamber-manifesto/
    b. **Freedom of speech/race relations** https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/internet-ethics/resources/social-efforts-to-id-charlottesville-marchers/

2. Truthiness of Data: *What to do when the pressure to perform is such a part of a workplace culture that many people make small decisions to alter data? Who should be held responsible, the individual bad actors or the company? What will you do?*
    a. **Falsification of data/race relations** https://thehomeinventoryresource.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/ethics-matter-a-volkswagen-case-study1.pptx
    b. **Trimming data** https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/more-focus-areas/engineering-ethics/engineering-ethics-cases/trimming-data/

3. Social Implications of Technology: *How far do you go to protect people who use your developing technologies (Do no harm?)*
    a. **China and social credit score** https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/internet-ethics/resources/chinas-social-credit-score/
    b. **Terms of Agreement discussion (including Facebook):** https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/internet-ethics/resources/clicking-through-to-the-ethics-of-social-media/
    c. **AI and Ethical Implications** https://www.scu.edu/ethics/all-about-ethics/artificial-intelligence-and-ethics-sixteen-challenges-and-opportunities/

4. Playing Favorites: *When are win-win situations unethical?*
    a. **Workplace** https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/more-focus-areas/engineering-ethics/engineering-ethics-cases/onerous-favorites/
    b. **Government-Project Procurement Boeing** https://page.org/attachments/c71ef9160dcaeef982bfc1b1ce7ff059f98f7e20/store/dec288fd5079b3e92d03dc53105704aade5f590b260daab2a5e55ebeb271/Boeingcase.pdf

5. Prediction of realistic, subtle ethical decisions in the workplace (more open-ended discussion):

Discuss some immediate subtle decisions that are very likely to occur in your near future (some examples below but come up with your own to discuss both sides of!)

   a. If you are a part of a project or developing technology that will be used in war (that directly results in the loss of life of human life) AND benefit society what will you do? Is this an acceptable tradeoff to you? Why or why not?

   b. If you are in a meeting and a woman/underrepresented minority/other says something absolutely crucial to the conversation but it is ignored (invisible syndrome), then that SAME comment is repeated by someone else next to you and they get all the credit (and you notice), what do you do? Have you seen this happen? What did you do? What should the person who was ignored do? Where does the obligation lie in defending this (the person ignored or the rest of the group who noticed)? Why?

After the debate:

   a. Open a google doc with all group members added to it. Write which topic your group chose to debate, who argued which side of the issue, and a summary of the main points of both sides of issue. Conclusions are not necessary (ethical dilemmas rarely have total consensus in a group with many people of varying background).

After class:

   b. Regardless of which side you debated, write your stance on the ethical issue. ***If and only if you feel comfortable***, you can place a link to your background experience in the answers you give. (i.e. as an African American woman in a male dominated field, I have experienced the invisible syndrome many times over. From this perspective of my personal experience the ethical position of speaking up for someone else who is ignored is _____)

   c. Relate your comments to one code of ethic points found in IEEE Code of Ethics and/or NSPE Code of Ethics)

   d. Upload pdf of final discussion to Gradescope by the following class.