

Internet Governance

In Chapter 7 of *Code v. 2.0*, Lawrence Lessig introduces a four-fold framework of regulation/constraint. In this paper, you'll write about how this framework could be applied to a particular Internet-related behavior.

Your paper should have the following basic structure:

- I. (roughly 1 page) Briefly explain (in your own words) the basic ideas of Lessig's scheme.
- II. (roughly 2 pages) Choose a behavior (see below), and discuss how each of Lessig's mechanisms of constraint might (or do) apply to this behavior. Be specific. For example, do *not* say "Market constraints could be applied by making email more expensive;" instead say something like, "Market constraints could be applied by imposing a \$0.05 fee per email message sent."
- III. (roughly 2 pages) Suggest which constraint (or combination of constraints) would be most cost-effective, if we needed to regulate the behavior in question. Be sure you explain why you think yours is the most cost-effective solution (though you don't need to exhaustively consider all possibilities).

Behaviors: The following behaviors are deemed by at least some users of the Internet to be inappropriate. Choose one as a sort of case study of Lessig's regulation framework. (It may be useful to think a bit about *who* exactly finds these behaviors inappropriate when you start thinking about how most effectively it could be regulated.)

Spam

Posting of copyrighted video, without authorization, to sites such as YouTube

Posting instructions for making home-made explosives

[If there is another behavior you would like to write about, contact me first.]

Grading: You will be graded both on mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.) and on the content of your paper. I will not spend a lot of time grading the mechanics: there is no reason for any student at this level not to have proper spelling and grammar, and I will downgrade heavily for problems with this. If you're in doubt, take your paper to the Learning Center before it's due. Mostly, I'm interested in how well your paper demonstrates your understanding of the Lessig reading, how well you're able to express your ideas concisely and effectively, and how well you're able to support your positions with reasoned arguments.

Drafts: I will happily give you feedback on as many drafts of this paper as you wish to generate before the due date. I will take no more no more than 2 business days to return comments on your draft (therefore, the last day to send me a draft is March 6). Because

of the difficulties in meeting in person during the week, you may email your drafts to me as attachments, and I will return them in the same way.

Academic Dishonesty: This paper should be completely your own work. You may discuss it with, and get help from, anyone in class, but the work should be your own. Be sure to provide the names of anyone in class with whom you discuss your work. The resources at http://dewey.brooklyn.cuny.edu/resources/subject.jsp?sub_id=42#149 will help you avoid plagiarism and provide proper citations for your sources. (Even though I've given you the sources to use in your paper, you must still cite them properly!)

Fussiness: The paper should be typed (of course). At least 4 full pages, but no more than 5 full pages, double-spaced (1-inch margins, 10-12 point font). You must turn in a hardcopy at the beginning of the class—if your paper is not turned in when I collect most of the papers, you will automatically lose a third of a grade (e.g. an A will become an A-). Papers not handed in on the 10th will receive a 0, unless you contact me before class with a compelling reason for an extension. You must bring **TWO COPIES** of your paper to class on the due date.