Project

How well is the project described by the essay? Are you given all of the context you need to understand the other points? Is it written in terms that someone outside of Informatics could understand? Is there any unnecessary information provided that isn't needed to support the rest of the essay?

Insufficient	Project description isn't understandable, or fails to provide the context needed for the rest of the essay. Alternatively, project is fantastical to the degree of farcical. Students are welcome to make up details to fill out the project, but this shouldn't make it into a discussion with no nuance (e.g. I was building a killbot for an indiscriminate rampage)
Good	Project description is understandable, but fails to explain key information in an accessible way, or provides a lot of details irrelevant to the context of the essay.
Very Good	Project described in an accessible way, with maybe a couple of details missed or unexplained.
Excellent	Very clear project description entirely appropriate for a non expert audience, anticipates information needed for the rest of the essay and doesn't overshare other details.

Anticipation

What are the main potential harms the essay highlights for the described system? Do these seem like a reasonable selection? Are they too fantastical, or not related to the context of the course (for example, are they just possible technical problems)?

Insufficient	States one or more potential harms of the system with little supporting detail. Doesn't make an argument for why the reader should care about / attend to these harms. If harms are purely technical (eg a bug might cause the system to shut down) without any consideration of how this impacts people/society, that is also insufficient.
Good	One or more potential harms are proposed with some individual detail of why they are important / who they impact / how they are related to this project.
Very Good	One or more potential harms are presented in good detail and their importance argued for, including some contrasting with other benefits or harms.
Excellent	A strong case is made for the importance of the one or more harms presented. They are contrasted with other potential benefits or harms.

Reflection

How reflective has the author been about their own position in the proposed situation? Have they identified factors (such as those discussed in the lecture) which contribute to their responsibility here? Have they compared their situation with that of other stakeholders?

Insufficient	The author's reflection is minimal, perhaps a surface level description of their position in the company with no consideration of wider society or comparison with other stakeholders.
Good	The author's reflection acknowledges a wider societal context than just their job, potentially including other stakeholders, but does not discuss either in detail.
Very Good	The author discusses traits of their own position with respect to wider society (eg. power, privilege, experiences) in detail and/or provides a surface level comparison with other stakeholders.
Excellent	The reflection contrasts the author's own position with that of other stakeholders and attempts to draw some conclusion about their responsibility.

Writing

How good is the writing of the essay? Is all of the language clear? Are key terms defined? Does the structure make sense, such that points/information appear in a logical order and follow on from one another?

Note that as long as the meaning is understandable, we're not interested in penalising poor spelling.

Insufficient	Incomprehensible at some points.
Good	Understandable. Key terms are defined.
Very Good	Information is all presented in a clear way and in a sensible order.
Excellent	Well written, clear lines of thought through the whole essay.

Argument

How clear is the argumentation of the essay? Are the main points the author wants to make clear? Have they acknowledged alternative positions that could be held? Have they given justification for all of the points presented or conclusions drawn?

Insufficient	The essay makes assertions as though they are arguments and does little to nothing to support them.

Good	The author has clear main points that are poorly supported, or constructs some arguments but that seem unconnected or at odds. Little to no acknowledgement of alternative views to those being presented.
Very Good	The author's main points are clear and supported by argument. They acknowledge some alternative views or counterarguments, and make some attempt to address them.
Excellent	Alternative views or counterarguments are presented clearly and fairly, and are addressed well by the argumentation.

Sources

How well does the essay integrate references to external sources, from course materials or from further reading beyond the course?

Insufficient	Essay contains citations but it's not clear what they're for or how they relate to the argument. Still relying on author assertions.
Good	Argument integrates material from the course. References to external sources are cited.
Very Good	Argument integrates some material from beyond the course readings. Sources are used to back up key points / claims.
Excellent	A wide range of sources are used to strongly support the points of the essay.