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Presentation Guidelines and Schedule

You have chosen your topics and dates for your class presentation. If you need to change anything, please let me know as soon as possible. Here are some guidelines to help you in preparing your presentation, as well as the weekly schedule for presentations.

Guidelines

Please limit your presentation to six minutes, absent my prior approval. (This does not include questions or class discussion.) You should not feel obligated to use this entire time. Please practice and time your presentation in advance. I encourage you to use the technology that we have available to us in class and/or class hand-outs to aid your presentation. You are welcome to test the classroom equipment during a break in class or before or after class.

In evaluating your presentations, I am looking for indications you have done the following:

- thought critically about how to effectively convey information about your topic to the class;
- researched and gained a sound understanding of your topic;
- thought about how some of the principles we have discussed in class apply to your topic; and
- practiced and prepared for your presentation.

Also, while I expect you to inform the class on some of the basic legal principles governing your topic, you should do more than simply convey the current state of the law. In other words, you should apply some of the principles we are learning in class to either analyze your topic in the context of current events, critique the effectiveness of the law or potential changes to the law, or compare your topic to other issues we are addressing in class.

Please send a short email to me 48 hours before your presentation giving me a short 2-4 sentence summary of what you plan to cover. This is not binding (I understand how last minute preparations work), but it will help me in planning how to incorporate your presentation into the class.

Please let me know if you have any questions as you plan your presentations. Good luck and have fun.

Schedule

October 10 (Week 6)

Patent Reform Issue: Make a presentation either for or against a specific patent reform proposal. You may want to play the role of a party interested in the patent reform debate (representative of the biotech, software, or University community).

October 17 (Week 7)

Digital Millennium Copyright Act: Overview this act and discuss its most controversial aspects. It has strengths and weaknesses, what are they and how do they affect owners, users, and distributors?

Visual Artists Rights Act ("VARA"): Discuss how VARA protects intellectual property rights for fine arts images.

October 24 (Week 8)

Cybersquatting: Research and discuss the law on cybersquatting. What are the standards for proving legal violations here? Do you agree with those standards?

Creative Commons: Discuss the Creative Commons, its objectives, how it works, and the public policy it services. You should compare its activities with the open-source movement, shareware, and similar endeavors.

MIT Open Knowledge Initiative: Research the Open Knowledge Initiative of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. What legal and policy issues are raised by this model of online education?

Public Domain in Relation to Government Documents

October 31 (Week 9)

Database Protection: To what extent should databases be protected under intellectual property law? To what extent does the law (intellectual property or other types of law) already protect them? Consider comparing US practices to those in Europe.

Gripe and Complaint Sites: Now that anyone can be a publisher, there are many websites dedicated to criticizing individuals, companies, organizations, etc. To what extent can the target of these types of sites respond? If you wanted to set up such a site, what should you keep in mind?

Right of Publicity and personality: How do these rights work? How do we know when someone is commenting on a celebrity or using him/her in an unauthorized way? Discuss how private the lives of public figures vs. private figures should be.

November 7 (Week 10)

Google Print From Libraries: Discuss the Google Print from Libraries project. Is it legal: why or why not? What value is this project and how, if at all, should public policy affect court decisions in this context.

Library Uses (Section 108): Discuss the uses libraries may make of copyright works. Explore interlibrary loan, reserves, copying in the library and preservation among other issues. What objections might publishers have to these uses? How should section 108 be amended given what we know now?

Educational Fair Use: Think about the tools environment here at the University of Michigan, along with similar platforms offered by Blackboard or other external providers of courseware services. To what extent do principles of fair use apply to the posting/distribution of materials from third-party sources? You may wish to research cases on the development of coursepacks for this assignment.

November 14 (Week 11)

Employees' rights to e-mail and Internet privacy: Discuss and critique the *Konop* 9th Circuit decision (see course materials) and other relevant cases. To what extent should employers be able to access websites maintained by employees, and act upon what they see there? What about e-mail? What obligations to employers have?

Use of Cookies: Under what circumstances, and on what bases, should the government regulate the use of cookies or similar technology? Perhaps focus on issues associated with Doubleclick's use of cookies.

Computer Use Policy: How should employers develop a computer use policy? Discuss the legal and policy reasons for the choices they make.

On-line Privacy: Google, among other on-line services, has come under considerable criticism for violating the privacy of its patrons. What are the issues surround services such as G-mail? What requirements are their upon on-line services to protect the privacy of their patrons and what obligations do they have to inform customers/visitors when their privacy has been violated.

USA-PATRIOT Act: What is it? What effect does this legislation have on citizens? On libraries? PATRIOT Act II is on the horizon, what more is in store for us?

November 21 (Week 12)

ICANN: Give an overview of ICANN and address the arguments for and against ICANN's role in regulating the Internet. Is there a better solution?

Design patent protection.

Music Sampling/Mashing II: Discuss music sampling and mashing and the copyright problems that emerge from them. When is it ok with to sample and when not? What liberty issues are at stake here? Use court cases and audio samples to illustrate your points.

December 5 (Week 14)

Digital Divide: Discuss the so-called “Digital Divide” in terms of access to the Internet and related technology. Are there issues related to race, gender, age, or disability of which schools and colleges should be aware? What are the legal implications, if any, of the Digital Divide? Is new legislation needed to address this problem?

Music Sampling/Mashing I: Discuss music sampling and mashing and the copyright problems that emerge from them. When is it ok with to sample and when not? What liberty issues are at stake here? Use court cases and audio samples to illustrate your points.

Copyright issues for comics.

Commercial Note-Taking: Discuss the legal and policy implications involved in student commercial note-taking services (see, e.g., course materials). How should universities handle this issue?