

## CS 463, FALL 2003

### *Writing Assignment 1*

***Due Date: Writing Assignment #1 is due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31.  
Submit by email to [dabrum@csupomona.edu](mailto:dabrum@csupomona.edu) or in hard-copy form to 98/T7-17.***

Artificial intelligence and human-computer interfaces are two areas of computer science in which social and ethical issues often arise. Many computer professionals and social policy professionals are concerned about risks associated with AI technologies. These risks can be fiscal, ethical, and/or social in nature. The article, “**Is ActiMates Barney ethical?: the potential good, bad, and ugly of interactive plush toys**” explores ethical issues associated with a specific example of AI/HCI technology.

Retrieve this article from the web at

<http://www.csupomona.edu/~dabrum/docs/actimates.pdf>.

Read this two-page article carefully and thoughtfully and answer the following questions.

#### ***Questions:***

1. Describe the topic of the article in 1-3 sentences.
2. What do the panelists want us to know or to believe about this topic?
  - a. How are the various panelists’ positions similar? different?
3. Do any of the panelists want us, or others, to do anything about this topic?
4. What arguments or examples do the panelists use to support their points of view?
5. Do any of the panelists make any hidden assumptions? Explain.
6. What is your view on this subject?
  - a. Do you believe that there are legitimate ethical or social issues connected with this technology? Explain.
  - b. Was your view influenced by any of the panelists? If so, explain.
  - c. Do you have any previous experience with this topic that influences your view?

Answer each question with an essay consisting of complete sentences. For questions 2 and 6 you should write at least two paragraphs. In responding to question 2, you might discuss each panelist’s position individually, or group them. Do not quote from the article. Rephrase ideas from the article in your own words.

Your paper will be graded for grammar (20%), spelling (10%), completeness (40%), and insight (30%). You will receive a graded paper by Wednesday, Nov. 5. You may revise and resubmit until you are satisfied with your grade; however, your final version must be submitted no later than Wednesday, Nov 12 at 5:00 p.m. If you revise and resubmit by email I will re-grade and provide feedback within 24 hours.