

N480/I590/C405 – Technology and the Law

Final Paper Information

The Final Paper will be due by 5 pm on the date as indicated in the syllabus. No extensions will be given absent extraordinary circumstances.

The Final Paper corresponds to PULs 3 [Integration and Application of Knowledge], 1A [Written, Oral and Visual Skills] and 1C [Information Resources Skills].

1. Please consider the following areas within intellectual property law that we have covered in the course:

- Copyright
- Trade Secret
- Patent
- Trademark

2. Please write a thorough, well-organized and well-reasoned paper that discusses:

- The benefits and advantages of each of these four types of intellectual property law.
- The limitations and disadvantages of each of these four types of intellectual property law.
- The steps are required to provide extra legal protection under each of these four types of intellectual property law.
- Some potential pitfalls for the informatics and new media professionals and paralegals and their clients if they are not knowledgeable about these four areas of intellectual property law.
- How contracts, agreements and licenses apply in each of these four areas of intellectual property law, along with some of the requirements, considerations, advantages and disadvantages of contracts, agreements and licenses when used to protect intellectual property rights.
- The ways in which these four areas of intellectual property law overlap and where there are still weaknesses and gaps, particularly related to new technology.
- What directions do you see the four areas of intellectual property law moving in the future and why.

If it helps to organize your thoughts, pretend that I am a client with a potential project for you. I have some vague notions about copyright, trade secret, patent and trademark law, but you need

to explain all of the issues to me. If it is easier for you, you can write the paper in 1st person rather than 3rd person.

3. Please double-space your paper, using 12-point font and with one-inch margins. The paper should be a minimum of 10 pages in length. Be sure to put your name at the top of the paper and use good grammar, punctuation and spelling.

4. You can use your textbooks, the mini-lectures and the PowerPoint presentations from the course as well as other print and electronic materials. **If you quote information from any materials, including your textbooks, Discussion Forums, modules, etc. please be sure to indicate this by using quotation marks and provide a complete reference (author, title, date, etc.).**

5. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PAPER VIA THIS ASSIGNMENT ENTRY. If you have problems, let me know and I may allow you to get it to me in another manner. Because of the Registrar's deadline, I must have your paper by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday indicated in the syllabus in order to give me time to read everything and then calculate and submit your final course grade. The Final Paper is worth 60 points (30% of your final course grade).

My recommendation is that you get an early start on the Final Paper and this will really help you to organize your thoughts. Good luck!

Let me know if you have any questions.