Shannon Proctor

Abstract: This assignment will be used in my Fall 2018 LIB200 class on Technoethics, which is a capstone course for Liberal Arts majors. This assignment is connected to core course learning objectives (problem solving, writing, etc.). However, it is not aimed at the identified core competencies for LIB200. The assignment is multi-stage and will cover two class periods and a few hours outside of class to complete. The assignment is low stakes and will count for less than 10% of the students' final grade. There is a strong and direct relationship to the Meanings of War seminar: 1) the content of the assignment is explicitly about the military and ethics and 2) the collaborative aspects of the assignment model the approach we used throughout the seminar. After discussing the assignment with other seminar participants, I went back and made the prompt more explicit and incorporated more in-class time to work on it.

Instructor: Shannon Proctor

Class: LIB200

Term: Fall 2018

Assignment: Thinking Ethically about Military Technologies

<u>In-class Activity</u>

1. Work with your partner to identify three technological developments that have shaped modern warfare or the military more generally. You should use our course readings, relevant personal experience, and reputable online sources. *Throughout these steps, be sure to take good notes so that you can use them later on.*
2. Describe these technologies including a brief explanation of how they are used in the military context.
3. Brainstorm possible ways in which these technologies have shaped the meanings of war, military personnel, and (if applicable) civilian society. Pay particular attention to how they affect (transform, reproduce, expand) ethical issues surrounding the military.
4. Select one of these developments for the at-home activity –you and your partner must select different technologies.
5. Come back to the group as a whole and we will share some of your findings.

<u>At-home Activity</u>

1. Review your notes from the in-class activity and note the ideas that most interest you.
2. Carefully consider how the technological development you selected may (or has) produced new ethical concerns. Does it reverse or transform earlier ethical thinking? Does it present new problems that we'll need to resolve if we hope to be ethical? What other ethical issues arise in relation to it?
3. Be sure to engage with the ethical theories we've been studying (as well as other relevant course materials) in order to ground your thoughts.
4. Write a reflection piece (2 pages) in which you analyze how this technology has shaped the ethics of war or the military. Included in your reflection should be a paragraph (or two) at the end in which you explore your reactions to this technological development (e.g., Do you think it's generally an improvement? Are the challenges it poses too great? Do you have thoughts about how to address the ethical issues you've noted?)
5. Post your reflection to Blackboard. (Remember not to use quotations – reflections should always be entirely in your own words. Paraphrasing is allowed and encouraged; just remember to cite your sources.)