



San José State  
UNIVERSITY

JS 135 White Collar Crime  
Spring 2007

## **GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT**

There will be a group research and presentation project. Each of you will be required to participate in the preparation of a research project on a WCC topic and submit a five to eight page paper on your part of the research. The papers should be in APA format. There will be a short primer on APA for those who have not yet had 100W. The grade will be based upon the attached rubric, which includes content and syntax.

This paper may be somewhat different than you are used to. The class will be divided into six groups of ten students each. The groups will choose a topic upon which to write. Some suggestions are given below. One group per topic, first come first served. So, for example, if group five is first to request the Myanmar slave worker suit, then no other group can have that specific topic. If a group chooses to split up further and choose more than one topic that is acceptable, too.

There will be fifteen minutes scheduled toward the end of the semester for presentations. Oral presentations are extra credit and not required. Presentations should be coordinated within groups. For example, if a group chooses to cover the recent Abramoff fiasco, the subtopics for the presentation would probably begin with one or two students giving an overview of the scandal, followed by students giving an accounting of the various players in the scandal, perhaps followed by students covering the investigation or discovery, then the government's response and a concluding statement giving the current status.

Needless to say, although this is a group task, the papers are to be an individual's work product. The group can and should share information and research, but not paragraphs.

Each paper must have a reference page with a minimum of five sources. The five sources do not have to be scholarly articles. There should be news sources, commentary, opinion, and web sites. Do not use text books as a resource. It is a matter of researching the event and the people involved. Wikipedia is an excellent resource, but encyclopedic citations, like Wikipedia, will not count toward the minimum references. Encyclopedias are starting points for research. Generally, sources for information are cited. That is where the student should go for a reference. Do not quote Wikipedia. Everything in there is second hand.

This paper should give the background of the crime, scandal or administrative wrong doing, an analysis which should include justification for characterizing the act or acts of the wrongdoer(s) as white collar crime and a discussion of the motive(s), opportunity and rationalization for the crime(s).

The papers must be at least 5 pages in length, double spaced with 1.5 inch margins.



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Possible topics:

- A) Corporate Crime e.g.: Enron, World Com
- B) Environmental Crime e.g.: Exxon Valdez, Clean Air and Clean Water Acts
- C) Political Corruption e.g.: Watergate, Abramoff/Delay/Ney conspiracy, or Mayor Gonzales
- D) War Profiteering, e.g.: Iraq contracts with Halliburton
- D) Cyber crime, e.g.: African princess scam.
- E) General discussion of criminalization of corporate acts, such as selling cigarettes or guns.

## RUBRIC

### **Scale 1: Knowledge**

Demonstrates a though, accurate and coherent explanation of the topic.  
Clearly identifies theme for the project.  
Appropriate and relevant facts are gathered and well organized.  
Presentation is unbiased and comes to an objective conclusion.

### **Scale II: Quality of Analysis**

Clearly tells a story of change over time.  
Effectively deals with the issues, including Motive, Opportunity and Rationalizations,  
and proceeds to suggests preventative or remedial measures.  
Formulates a well supported conclusion.  
Strong supportive arguments are used.  
Resolutions are persuasive and based on research.

### **Scale III: Quality of Sources** (Measured by quality and quantity.)

Resources include exceptional sources.  
Sources consulted are balanced and the presentation is fair-minded.  
Bibliography includes a wide variety of primary and secondary sources.