Social & Ethical Issues

Due electronically by the start of class on Thursday 7 April 2011 Grading: 25 points for social & ethical content, 75 points for writing

Many people want access to certain services, but feel some of the terms required to get those services are unnecessary and overly intrusive, so they supply false information instead. For example, they may apply for a store loyalty card, but give a fake address or telephone number, or fill out a survey, but give a fake age or salary range when the survey forces them to disclose that information. Are these actions acceptable, or wrong?

Write a 2.5-page (minimum) to 3.0 page (maximum) essay that evaluates such actions under Kantianism, Act / Rule Utilitarianism, and Social Contract Theory.

Type your essay into a word processor such as Microsoft Word, Open Office, or Google Docs. On a single line at the top of the first page, type "Homework 5" and your name. Save the file in .DOC, .DOCX, or .PDF format, and use **your last name**, a dash, and "**Homework5**" as the name of the file – e.g., "Walker-Homework5.doc".

Follow normal conventions of composition and grammar. Use well-constructed paragraphs, each with a topic sentence. Use proper punctuation and spelling. Avoid confusing words such as "its" and "it's", "their" and "they're", and "your" and "you're".

Stay within the page limit mentioned above, and format the essay as follows. Use a 12 point font, and double-space your text. Do not add an extra line between paragraphs, but indent the first line of each paragraph. The text of this paragraph follows these guidelines.

Submit the .DOC, .DOCX, or .PDF file containing your essay to me electronically, via email to <u>walker@cs.kent.edu</u> or <u>rawalke1@kent.edu</u> with "Homework 5" as the subject of the email. I will reply to your email to confirm the receipt of your assignment.