

Assignment 1, CSCI 471/571 Fall 2020

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Due: September 25, 2 p.m.

Work alone

This first assignment will provide me with a little more information about your background.

1. (10 pts) Complete the survey on Canvas.
2. (10 pts) Describe why you are excited to study machine learning. Is there a particular algorithm, application area such as medicine, games, or science, or really cool technology that gets you hyped?
Write 1–2 paragraphs (≈ 200 –350 words) about what excites or inspires you to take this class.
3. (10 pts) Think about your own encounters with machine learning. Some examples that you are probably familiar with are suggested websites and connections on social networks, targeted advertisements, and drones. Do you see any dangers in these kind of technologies? What about near future technologies enabled by ML, such as self-driving cars and other robots, and computer-generated writing and video?
Write 1–2 paragraphs (≈ 200 –350 words) about any dangers you see, or, if you aren't concerned, explain your optimism.

Submit your written responses to 2 and 3 as a single PDF file on Canvas.