

CJ 104 Final Project Guidelines and Rubric

Overview

Careers within the criminal justice field require personnel to have high ethical standards in order to minimize the risk of engaging in corrupt activities. This is especially true for officers wishing to become involved with specialized units where they may become part of a subculture within the overall culture of the agency. In the late 1990s, more than 70 officers from the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart Division CRASH unit were implicated in one of the most widespread cases of police misconduct in American history. This should have been a signal to law enforcement officers everywhere that this type of conduct would be thoroughly investigated and would not be accepted as a common practice by organizations and the citizens they represent. However, this case alone has not served to deter others from getting caught up in a web of unethical decisions.

Prompt

In this assessment, you will use the provided information in the case study to evaluate the unethical behaviors, the contributing factors, and the role of leadership, and you will reflect on how the case study example impacts your own practices, the profession, and the criminal justice system. Provided below are an overview of the function of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department SCORE Unit, the criminal indictment of some of its members in 2011, and subsequent trial and resolution involving members of this elite unit. Be sure to completely read through all the materials before you begin to craft your response to each critical element of the prompt.

- [Kansas City, Kansas Police Department SCORE Unit](#)
- [The Criminal Indictment: United States of America v. Jeffrey M. Bell, Darryl M. Forrest, and Dustin Sillings](#)
- News coverage on charges and resolution:
 - KCTV 5 News: [New Details Arise About Sting That Busted KCK Officers](#)
 - KCTV 5 News: [Three Members of KCK Police Department's SWAT Team Indicted](#)
 - KCTV 5 News: [3 KCK Officers Plead Guilty as Part of FBI Sting Operation](#)

Keep the following guiding questions in mind as you read through the materials:

- What ethical considerations should be made when selecting officers for this unit?
- What responsibility does the organization have to put the right personnel into this type of unit?

This analysis will assess your mastery of the course concepts with respect to the following course outcomes:

- Justify the importance of ethics to the profession and criminal justice system
- Describe the ethical responsibilities of criminal justice professionals in the decision-making process

- Assess factors that contribute to unethical behaviors in personal and professional performances in the criminal justice field
- Evaluate criminal justice leadership decision making for its implications on the resulting acts of subordinates
- Employ ethical practices in one's own decision making to establish a pattern of professional conduct as a participant in the criminal justice system

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed in your analysis:

- I. Unethical Behavior(s)
 - A. **Describe the unethical behaviors** evident in the case study materials. Support your response with examples.
 - B. Considering the actions of the criminal justice professionals (e.g., officers and superiors) in the case study, discuss their **ethical behaviors in relation to their ethical responsibilities**. Did each criminal justice professionals' decision-making process uphold their ethical responsibilities? Why or why not?

Note: When referring to **ethical responsibilities**, consider how the unethical behaviors you identified in part A relate to professional standards, such as those found below:

 - i. [CALEA Law Enforcement Program Standards](#)
 - ii. [American Correctional Association \(ACA\) Code of Ethics](#)
 - iii. [American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct](#)
- II. Contributing Factors
 - A. **Describe the contributing factors**, implicit and explicit, that may have influenced these officers.
 - B. **Analyze how this conduct** impacted the officers' personal lives.
- III. Role of Leadership
 - A. Describe the **role of leadership within the unit** and within the department as it may relate to this specialized unit. Where did the system fail?
 - B. **Evaluate what could have been done differently**. Describe specific actions that could have made a difference.
- IV. Your Practices: Put yourself into a position within this unit, working with these three officers. Given what you know about yourself and the expectations of this profession:
 - A. Describe a potential **course of action** that adheres to your own high ethical standards and that would have influenced your involvement with the unit.
 - B. What **risks** do you face in establishing this pattern of conduct?
- V. Conclusion: Given your analysis, address the importance of ethics in the demands of the profession and criminal justice system.
 - A. Why are ethics important in the **daily demands of the profession**?
 - B. What is the significance of ethics in the **public's perception of the criminal justice system**?



Milestones

This course includes three milestones that provide you opportunities to work on a number of the critical elements that will comprise your final project. These milestones provide you valuable opportunities to get feedback from your instructor that can help to improve your final submission.

Milestone One: Short Paper: Analyzing Unethical Behaviors

In **Module Two**, you will describe the different ethical behaviors present throughout the final project case study, and assess the significance of the unethical behaviors in relation to the decision-making process. Through this short paper, you will also have an opportunity to identify additional resources and research that will help support your work on the milestones and your completion of the final project. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone One Rubric.**

Milestone Two: Short Paper: Examining Contributing Factors and Consequences

In **Module Four**, you will describe the different contributing factors that may have influenced or encouraged the officers involved in the case study of the Kansas Police Department SCORE unit and analyze or theorize how unethical actions impacted the officer's personal lives. In this milestone, you will work to include three external sources other than those provided in the final project prompt. These resources can be those you identified in Milestone One or additional materials that provide new perspectives on the case study or contributing factors and consequences related to unethical behavior. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone Two Rubric.**

Milestone Three: Short Paper: Identifying the Role of Leadership

In **Module Six**, you will consider the roles and responsibilities of leadership as it relates to the Kansas Police Department SCORE Unit and describe the role of leadership within the unit, and within the department. You will work to identify where the system and the decision-making cycle failed and describe alternate courses of action that could have made a difference to change the outcome. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone Three Rubric.**

Final Submission: Ethics Case Study Analysis

In **Module Seven**, you will submit your final project, an ethics case study analysis. In your final submission, you are encouraged to revisit the work done to support Milestones One, Two, and Three, and incorporate instructor feedback to improve your submission and your grade. **This submission is graded with the Final Project Rubric.**

Deliverables

Milestone	Deliverables	Module Due	Grading
One	Short Paper: Analyzing Unethical Behaviors	Two	Graded separately; Milestone One Rubric
Two	Short Paper: Examining Contributing Factors and Consequences	Four	Graded separately; Milestone Two Rubric
Three	Short Paper: Identifying the Role of Leadership	Six	Graded separately; Milestone Three Rubric
	Final Submission: Ethics Case Study Analysis	Seven	Graded separately; Final Project Rubric

Final Project Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: 4–5 pages, double spaced, with 12-point Times New Roman font.

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Needs Improvement (55%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Description of Unethical Behaviors	Meets “Proficient” criteria and the response is well qualified with identification of “decision points” at which behaviors crossed the line	Describe the unethical behaviors involved and the response includes supporting examples	Describes the unethical behaviors involved but the response is not supported with examples	Does not describe the unethical behaviors involved	8
Ethical Behaviors in Relation to Ethical Responsibilities	Meets “Proficient” criteria and compares with other real-world examples	Discusses the unethical behaviors of the criminal justice professionals in the case study in relation to their ethical responsibilities	Discusses the unethical behaviors of the criminal justice professionals in the case study in relation to their ethical responsibilities, but discussion is inaccurate or lacks detail	Does not discuss the unethical behaviors of the criminal justice professionals in relation to their ethical responsibilities	11
Contributing Factors	Meets “Proficient” criteria and compares with other real-world examples	Describes how the contributing factors, implicit and explicit, may have influenced officers	Describes contributing factors, but only addresses implicit OR explicit factors that may have influenced officers	Does not describe the contributing factors, implicit and explicit, that may have influenced officers	9

Southern New Hampshire University

Analysis of Conduct's Impact	Provides specific detail as to how this conduct might impact the officer's personal life and includes examples	Provides analysis as to how this conduct can impact the officer's personal life	Provides analysis as to how this conduct can impact the officer's personal life but determinations are not logical	Does not provide analysis as to how this conduct can impact the officer's personal life	10
Role of Leadership	Meets "Proficient" criteria and is well qualified with course concepts	Describes the role of leadership within the unit and within the department as it relates to the specialized unit and provides specifics regarding how the system failed	Describes the role of leadership within the unit and within the department as it relates to the specialized unit but lacks specificity in where the system failed	Does not describe the role of leadership within the unit, and within the department connecting to this specialized unit	9
Evaluation of What Could Have Been Different	Meets "Proficient" criteria and includes specific examples supported by research	Evaluates what could have been done differently, describing specific actions that could have made a difference	Identifies what could have been done differently and if it would have made a difference, but lacks specificity of action	Does not evaluate what could have been done differently	10
Course of Action	Meets "Proficient" criteria and is well qualified with course concepts	Describes a potential course of action that demonstrates adherence to high ethical standards	Describes a course of action but lacks specificity in how it adheres to high ethical standards	Does not describe a course of action	9
Risks	Meets "Proficient" criteria and compares with other real-world examples	Describes the risks involved in establishing this pattern of conduct and its importance to the expectations of the profession	Describes the risks involved in establishing this pattern of conduct but lacks specificity in connecting to expectations of the profession	Does not describe the risks involved in establishing this pattern of conduct	10
Daily Demands of the Profession	Meets "Proficient" criteria and is well qualified with real world-examples outside of the provided case study	Describes the importance of ethics in the daily demands of the profession	Describes the importance of ethics but lacks specificity in connecting to the daily demands of the profession	Does not describe the importance of ethics	9
Public Perception of the Criminal Justice System	Meets "Proficient" criteria and is well qualified with real world-examples outside of the provided case study	Describes the significance of ethics in the public's perception of the criminal justice system	Discusses the significance of ethics but lacks specificity in connecting to the public's perception of the criminal justice system	Does not describe the significance of ethics in the public's perception of the criminal justice system	10
Articulation of Response	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	5
Total					100%