



Summer 2023 Legal, Policy, Research and Technologist Intern Writing Sample Prompt

Thank you for your interest in spending a summer with the Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT). As part of our internship application, we request writing samples that are more reflective of the work you will be expected to do. We write a lot of [blog posts](#) here at CDT, and we also ask our interns to draft at least one over the summer.

Please write a blog post analyzing one or two implications of the evolving coronavirus pandemic for the tech policy issue areas CDT works on. Your blog post should do the following:

- briefly explain the issue to your audience,
- illustrate in more detail one or two of the relevant legal, policy, or technical considerations,
- advocate for a particular policy or approach,
- have a title, and
- not exceed 2 pages, 1.5 spacing.

Please choose one of the following issue areas as a lens for analyzing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Your blog post should pick one angle to focus on. Please do not attempt to cover all of these issue areas:

- Constitutional issues (such as those that might arise under the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 10th, or 14th Amendments)
please just pick one
- Data privacy and management policies (eg., the commercial collection, sharing, and use, of people's health data)
- Competition policy (eg., competition between providers or competition for network resources)
- Standardization or interoperability (e.g., the sharing of data between different governmental databases, such as sharing school vaccination records with public health authorities)
- Content moderation policy (with respect to online disinformation related to elections, coronavirus disinformation or other areas of public concern within the information ecosystem)
- Accessibility and civil rights (e.g., the impact of algorithmic determinations of eligibility for vaccinations or government subsidies on historically marginalized populations)
- Public safety

We recognize that we are asking you to complete a difficult task. Many, if not most of you, have never written a blog post. This is expected. Use this as an opportunity to practice because writing, including blogging, is a central component of our policy work. Do not stress over this assignment. What is important is your effort, but you probably shouldn't spend much more time writing than you would spend composing a thoughtful cover letter. We recommend no more than 10 hours.

Some tips: read some of our recent [blog posts](#) to get a feel for what you're expected to produce; think about who you want your audience to be, and brevity is the beauty of the blog post. If you need help getting started you can review [our recent work](#) and our [webinar series](#) in response to the coronavirus or articles on the topic from news sites like [The Verge](#), [Ars Technica](#), [TechDirt](#). Pro-tip: if you're using footnotes you've gone astray – blogs tend to hyperlink directly to their sources. If you have any questions about this writing sample request please feel free to email internapps@cdt.org.