

A writing assignment

Due Monday, February 7, 2000

Please write a two page essay (using a standard font!) on a topic connected with the privacy of medical records. The essay could be expository, discussing some aspect of the issues, or it could be argumentative, supporting a viewpoint. Give any references you use (but give at least two references). This essay should be your own work!

Background comments about this writing assignment

I've generally found writing even adequately to be difficult. Here are some suggestions:

- Write complete sentences.
- Write sentences expressing ideas clearly and completely.
- Proofread your own work and edit it. Ask a friend to read your work and comment.
- Buy a copy of *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White, a very short book. Read it once a year. An early edition of it is available on the web: look at
<http://www.bartleby.com/141/index.html>.
- Include a clear thesis statement at or near the beginning.
- Support your major points with reasons, examples, or evidence.

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