Social, Ethical, Professional Issues

This assignment is due as part of your final exam. You may turn it in at any time prior to the end time of the final exam.

You are to write a short report on a topic involving social, ethical, or professional issues and high performance computing. The report is to be typed and formatted in 10 or 12 point type, with reasonable margins, and between three and five pages in length.

Preferred report: You are to describe, with appropriate citation to authoritative references ("authoritative" meaning books, journals, websites, magazines whose content can be trusted), both sides (or more, if there are more than two sides) of such an issue. You need not take a stand one way or the other.

Acceptable report, but mildly deprecated: Do the above, but take a position yourself. However, no less than one third of your report should be a summary of the "other" side’s arguments.

You are to include with your report photocopies of two reference items presenting each side. If the same document covers both points of view, then it can count twice, so you will need to submit two, three, or four references.

The purpose of this assignment is to require you to investigate at least one such topic in sufficient depth to be able intelligently to discuss what the issue is and why there is in fact an issue that is under discussion.