

A Super Hero of Your Own

(This assignment tries to bring a few different ideas from the semester together while getting the student to begin to think more actively of how they will address their program-related paper).

This assignment asks you to take the role of Stan Lee: You are going to create your own superhero! While you needn't worry about costume design or the exact nature of your hero's powers (though that can be fun!), you *do* need to be concerned with the ethical nature of your hero.

TASK: Address the following points about your personally-created superhero:

1. Your hero must have a secret identity. In this identity, she or he is working in the field you are studying for right now. How does she or he approach their civilian job? Why have they chosen this line of work? Come up with an ethical quandary she or he might have encountered in this job? How did she deal with it, and for what reasons?
2. Your hero must have an origin story, a reason for which they became a superhero. What are some of the ethical issues present in this story? For example, we have already seen how Wayne's decision to become Batman has some ethical dimensions to it, dimensions that don't seem obvious at first. As another example, a young Matthew Murdock is blinded by radioactive waste from a transportation truck moving through his neighbourhood of Hell's Kitchen. He gets blinded while trying to save an older man from being hit by the truck. You don't need to apply any ethical theories here (though you can if it helps!) but you do need to identify what issues within the origin story are ethical in nature.
3. Your hero must have a code. Come up with a set of beliefs or a code of conduct that your hero believes in, that drives him or her to be a hero. What ethical theories that we have studied (Utilitarianism, Deontology, and Virtue Ethics) are part of this code?
4. BONUS! Who is your hero's archenemy? On what philosophical grounds does the enemy oppose the hero? What makes their conflicts *ethical* in nature?