

MA 391 ESSAY # 6

Choose ONE of the two topics below for your essay. Be sure to provide evidence in support of your conclusion. Your essay should be typed, double spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, at least 750 words.

- (1) In the past, college football's Bowl Championship Series rankings were computed by aggregating polls of coaches, former players, and commentators with rankings produced by computer algorithms, such as PageRank. Today, they are determined solely by the College Football Playoff Selection Committee. If you were in charge of the BCS, what method would you use for determining the rankings? Do you think that more emphasis should be placed on the human element or the computer algorithms? What arguments are there in favor of your position?

- (2) Find an example of using mathematics to model or combat the spread of misinformation online. What do you think of the potential of such research?