Assignment #1: Brainstorming.

Your task in this assignment is to come up with potential research ideas for a term project. For this assignment you may **NOT** work in groups. Do not discuss your ideas before submitting them. And do not discuss the ideas you are assessing before submitting your ratings.

These should be based on your previous experience in undergraduate and master’s level computer science courses, your personal experiences and interests, and the discussion of artificial intelligence, natural language processing and speech in Lecture 3.

This assignment has two graded components.

1) Write and describe 10 possible ideas. These should each be described in 2-3 sentences. Each description should give the reader enough information to assess the idea under the following three criteria. It should convince a reader that it has scientific merit, that it is interesting, and that it can be accomplished or assessed in one semester. Identify five of these to be assessed by your peers. Your grade will in part be determined by their evaluations, so choose your favorite ideas for this. However, your grade will also be based on the five ideas that you chose not to share with your peers.

2) Assess the ideas of your peers. For each of the selected ideas of the students in the class, you will assess them on three criteria, each of which are scored from 1-3. For each of the set of five ideas from each student (whose names will be obscured), you will identify the one idea that you consider to be the “best”. Where “best” is defined as the most interesting, that is most achievable in the semester.
   a. Scientific Merit: Does this research idea address an unanswered question that has scientific merit.
      i. 1- little scientific merit
      ii. 2- moderate scientific merit
      iii. 3- significant scientific merit
   b. Reasonable scope: Can this idea be reasonably assessed or implemented in one semester.
      i. 1- it will be very difficult to complete this work in the available time.
      ii. 2- it is possible, but it will take particular effort.
      iii. 3- it will be easy to complete this work in the available time.
   c. Interest Factor: How interested are you in this topic.
      i. 1- I don’t have much interest in this topic.
      ii. 2- I have some interest in this topic.
iii. 3- I am interested in this topic.

The Ideas are due electronically by 11:59pm Sunday, September 23. You will receive the responses that you need to assess on Tuesday, September 25. Your responses to the ideas of your peers are due on 11:59pm Sunday, September 30.

In class on Monday, October 1, be prepared to discuss your assessment of the ideas. You will be expected to explain your ratings on each of the three scales for each assessed idea.