In 1999 Napster created a file sharing service that allowed users to share a portion of their personal hard drives for the purpose of allowing people to download music. When you installed the local Napster client on your computer, the address of your computer and a list of songs were registered with a central Napster server so people could search for particular songs. If a song that someone wanted was on your hard drive, the song was copied directly from your computer to the downloader’s computer via the internet. At no point did Napster’s servers contain any songs. Essentially, this was a peer-to-peer network with Napster helping find content on remote computers by maintaining an index and address list.

1. Do you feel Napster was doing anything wrong? Why or why not? Please explain how you arrived at your answer.

2. Much of the music that Napster’s users were copying was copyrighted. Did the users of Napster’s software do anything wrong? Please explain.

3. Suppose I work at a music store and I know where every CD is located in the store. And someone walks up to me and says, “I would like to steal the latest Taylor Swift album. Could you please tell me where to find it?”

   (a) If I point to where the album can be found am I doing anything wrong? Explain your answer.

   (b) What if I didn’t know the intent was to steal the album. Does that make a difference? Why or why not?

   (c) Is this any different than what the Napster service did? Why or why not?