

Intellectual Property
Fall 2017
Alternative Writing Assignment

This assignment is one page long. You can confine your answer to the areas we've discussed so far in class: undeveloped ideas, trade secret, patent, and copyright. You are allowed to consult written and electronic sources beyond those presented in class and in the coursepack. Do not discuss this assignment with anyone until after the due date.

So far, we have discussed three bodies of IP law in substantial detail: trade secret, patent, and copyright. Which of the three does the best job of tracking what is distinctive and valuable about the information it protects? Which of the three is the most coherent? If your answers to these questions are the same, why? If they are not, why not?

Write an essay of about 2500 words answering these questions—or, if you prefer, whatever closely related questions you think I should have asked.

Your answers are due by noon on Monday, November 20.