Homework 11 (Due Wednesday, May 5 on or before the beginning of the class)

1. Read the following article on the web on “The Strength of Weak Ties”:

   Then, on Moodle, participate in a discussion forum by stating the title of a weak tie that you have. The “weak tie” person could be directly known to you or through someone, who knows the weak tie person. Preferably, this weak tie person has a reasonable chance of being accessible to you and should have some value related to projects in this class. For the purposes of this exercise, academics of UCSC are not allowed to be listed as weak ties for the purposes of this exercise. Acceptable examples include: “Venture Capitalist”, “Tech Entrepreneur”, “Businesswoman”.

   Inside the forum, write the name of the weak tie and their affiliation and if the weak tie is not directly known to you, please state the person (and relationship) through whom you know the person.

   Finally, inside the forum, state ONE most valuable take-away from this reading.

2. Peer Assessment of Group Projects (Due by Tuesday, May 4, late night):

   There are about 25 group projects. Please rank all the group projects strictly from 1 to 25 using the following criteria: (i) feasibility, (ii) value to society (importance of the problem), (iii) innovativeness of proposed solution, (iv) possibility of financial sustainability, (v) scalability (how many lives this project may impact), and (vi) any other criteria that you may consider important (in which case state the criteria as well).

   List this strict ranking inside the forum on moodle titled “Peer Assessment of Group Projects”.

3. “Overlooked Projects” (thank to Madelyn Low)

   I have requested that groups evaluate their own projects and move towards projects with very high value to society and feasibility (Can this team deliver the projects/services that they are proposing to offer? Is it worth lending my money to them?)

   I feel that about 50 projects out of a total of 225 proposed projects in class have very high value to society and many good projects proposed by your peers have been overlooked. **The objective of this assignment is to find 5 overlooked projects** (from 3 innovative ideas) that has very high value to society, are feasible, are not one of the group projects currently under consideration, and none of these projects can be yours. Ideally, all of these projects should be new to you (that you have not been previously read by you), but this is not a strict requirement, but at least a few of them should be new to you. Participate on the moodle and write the name of the project + name of student for one of these projects in the title and the remaining 4 inside the forum. Ideally, I would expect that you read all the proposed 225 projects, but read as many as you can before settling down on one.

   You can also use this time to propose a “NEW project” under “New projects proposal” forum. On Wednesday in class, you will have an opportunity to regroup (with new members) or cluster around another, hopefully more compelling idea, or refining the idea that you have further so that it begins to shine!