The purpose of this assignment is to deal with the broader issues of professional practice beyond engineering ethics. Specifically, you will consider contemporary issues in electrical, computer, and/or biomedical engineering, as well as the impact of engineering solutions in a global and societal context. The primary reference source for this assignment is the *IEEE Spectrum* magazine (any issue within the past five months; that is, July through November of 2009). If you are an IEEE member, you receive this publication in the mail. It is possible to access recent Spectrum articles online at [http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/magazine](http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/magazine). This website gives the most recent issue, and you can select previous issues by scrolling down to the bottom of the page and clicking on one of the other recent issues. In this assignment, you will identify three contemporary issues, summarize two of them, and give some details about the third.

Find three Spectrum articles dealing with contemporary issues in engineering. **Use only Featured Articles** for this assignment. These articles are found under the column heading **Features**. For two of the articles, write at least two paragraphs describing the issue, why it is important, and the role engineers play in the issue (for good or for bad). For the third article, give a more detailed analysis. In particular, you should write about the following points (at least one to two paragraphs for each point):

- Describe the issue, why it is important, and the role engineers play in it.
- Describe the impact of the engineering work in a societal and/or global context.
- If you were going to work on the problem described in the article, you would likely need to learn more than the things you have studied at URI. Describe how you would go about obtaining the required additional knowledge. Your description should demonstrate that you have the ability to engage in life-long learning.

This assignment will be graded based on the level of detail, organization, and thought demonstrated. **Be sure to give bibliographic citations for each article.**