

**CS-103 HW 11**  
**December 4, 2006**  
**Due at beginning of lecture Monday Dec 11, 2006**

1. Recommend at least three blogs of your CS-103 classmates by going to <http://cs103.pbwiki.com/HW11> and following the instructions. The student with the most incoming recommendations (measured in lecture Mon Dec 11) wins a free homework drop.
  
2. Consider “social epidemics” as we explored them in HW9 (also called “information cascades” in *Six Degrees*). Use of the Internet is one of the most explosive social epidemics in American history—second only to color TV in the speed with which American homes adopted it. Do you think that America’s use of the Internet makes it (1) easier, or (2) harder, for new social epidemics to occur in this country, in comparison to before the Internet was popular? Choose a position and write a short essay supporting your position (200-500 words, or a few paragraphs). Your essay will be graded based on having:
  - A clear and well-founded argument, including acknowledgment of possible arguments for the opposing viewpoint and rationale for your choice in the face of these counter-arguments
  - Appropriate use of concepts from CS-103 about the **social web, epidemics, and externalities**

**Please submit your typed (or neatly written) essay on paper at the beginning of lecture, Monday Dec 11**