CENT 1310
Computer Systems & Software

Written Report and Oral Presentation

Applicable Student Outcomes & Learning Objectives: SO-3, LO-5

Select a computer related topic and prepare a five to seven page report (The minimum length report would consist of a cover sheet, three full pages of text, and a page listing your references).

The topic should be one that is interesting to you and one that you can easily research. Use the sample research reports in your Word modules as a guide.

DUE DATES

Deadline for telling your instructor your Topic _____

Deadline for submitting an Abstract for your topic _____

Deadline for submitting your Report _____

Date for giving your Oral Presentation _____

NOTE: There will be a penalty of **two** points per day, **ten** points per week, for missing any deadlines.

Tell (email) your instructor which topic you would like for your report. Each person must select a different topic. You are free to choose a topic not listed in this handout if it is computer related and nobody else has chosen it. Ask your instructor for approval for a topic that is not on the list.

*** **Some possible topics for your paper are attached to the end of this document.** ***

I. Technical Abstract (single page)

- Put the word Abstract at the top of this document and your report title under this.
- The abstract should be single spaced.
- Use one inch margins for left/right and top/bottom.
- Use 11 or 12 point sized font (Times Roman or similar style).
- Near the top of the printed abstract, put your name, CENT 1310-your section, and the date on three separate lines.

The Abstract is a brief (one or two paragraph) description of your topic written after you have obtained initial approval. The abstract should not be written until you finish your research.

A minimum of three (3) different references is required. References may be from books, magazines, trade journals, or dependable Internet Web sites.

Avoid the use of personal pronouns in all formal, technical writing. Personal pronouns such as ***I***, ***me***, ***we***, ***us***, and ***you*** should not be used unless you are describing a personal experience.

II. Report Format (five or more pages)

- The report will be uploaded to PAWS. Your instructor will give instructions.
- The report should be double spaced.
- Use one inch margins for left/right and top/bottom.
- Use 11 or 12 point sized font (Times Roman or similar style).
- Select a technical paper format (MLA, APA, etc.) from a writer's guide such as the Harbrace College Handbook. The rules laid out in such a book are an excellent guide for producing a good paper. You may decide to use another format or style but be sure to follow a published guide and be consistent.

The components of your paper should include the following:

A. Cover page –

- One sheet
- This should have a title centered about two inches from the top margin.
- Your *Name* should be centered about two inches below the title.
- The course identifier *CENT 1310- section* and *Computer Systems & Software* should be centered approximately two inches from the bottom of the page.
- The *Date* of the report should be centered immediately below.
- Do *not* put your instructor's name on your report.

B. Report's text –

- Minimum of three full sheets.
- Write in your own words by summarizing what you learned from doing your research. Use a minimum amount of quoted material.
- Graphical images and tables may be used in your report, but they may not be counted as part of the three required pages of text.
- The pages following your cover sheet should be numbered at the upper right or at the bottom of each sheet. The sheet after the cover sheet should be numbered as page 1.
- **Cite your references** in the body of the report. Footnotes/Endnotes can be used or the technique shown in the box below is allowable. See the following example:

> The most common use of the microcomputer is word processing, followed by spreadsheet processing. Database processing is the third most used microcomputer application. (Bryan 49)

The reference cited above - (Bryan 49) - refers to the author's last name (as listed on the Works Cited page at the end of the report) and page 49 in this reference.

Internet website references should include the website address, an article title, the author or company name (if available), and the date the website was accessed. Simply including the web address is *not* acceptable.

C. List of references –

- One sheet.
- Must have a minimum of three references.
- Put the words Works Cited (or References) at the top of this sheet.
- Then list your references (sources of information) in alphabetical order.

Below is an example of a Works Cited page:

Works Cited

Bryan, G. T. The Computer Handbook. New York: McGill Book Company, 2021.

Burt, Howard. "Computers in Industry." 15 January 2022 (date Web site was accessed). www.compinfo.com.

Wiler, John. "Computers and You." PC Magazine. July 2020: 17-20.

III. Oral Presentation (using PowerPoint)

- A PowerPoint presentation consisting of five or more slides is required.
- Limit your talk to about five minutes.

Introduce yourself first. Is this your first term at Southwest? What are some of your interests in the field of engineering technology? Where would you like to work?

Describe the important points in your paper. Your presentation will be much better if you just try to describe some of the more interesting points covered in your paper. Try to avoid reading your paper to the class. (Use note cards, if necessary.) Keep your presentation to the point and leave time for questions at the end.

Possible Topics to Select From:

(Remember that each student must get prior approval from the instructor when selecting a topic. Each student must select a different topic.) Email your topic to your instructor using PAWS email.

1. Thin-client network computers
2. The Microsoft Windows operating system
3. Computer networks, local area networks
4. The Internet global network
5. Wireless computer networks
6. Computer multimedia, interactive media
7. Notebook/Laptop/Tablet PC
8. Computer voice recognition
9. Virtual reality
10. Green computing
11. CPU power dissipation
12. Digital satellite transmission
13. Fiber optic data transmission
14. Interactive television
15. Computer graphics
16. Computers in medicine
17. Computer-assisted instruction
18. Microprocessor chips
19. Computer programming
20. Microprocessors in automobiles
21. Job opportunities in computer fields
22. Computer aided design or computer aided manufacturing
23. ENIAC - topics relating to computer history
24. Computer music
25. Personal computers - costs, purchase or build your own
26. Computer software - types of packages and costs
27. Computer games - an inside look
28. Computers in art - commercial packaging
29. Computers in the broadcast industry
30. Future computers - What might we see in the next ten years?
31. Computer vocalization - computer speech
32. Computers in society
33. Computer hacking and security
34. Intranet information systems
35. Cable modems
36. Computer viruses
37. Computer crime

38. Computer privacy
39. Commerce on the Web
40. The Java language and Java script
41. Python programming language
42. Microsoft Corporation
43. Apple, Inc.
44. Intel Corporation
45. Web page design
46. Data encryption
47. Computer animation
48. Nanotechnology (micro-machines)
49. Computer chip manufacture/DNA Arrays (gene chips)
50. Cloud Computing
51. Search Engines
52. Smart Homes
53. Generations of Microprocessors
54. Ethics in Computing
55. Mobile Computing
56. Social Networks
57. Smartphones
58. Grid Computing
59. Cluster Computing
60. VOIP (Voice over IP)
61. Data Mining
62. Quantum Computing
63. Infotainment systems (automotive)
64. Educational Computer Games
65. 5G Networks