**English 1112 E: October 16 DGD**

**Note: To avoid slides overcrowded with text, the PowerPoint presentation for this DGD contains the answers only to Activity 2. It is therefore especially important this week to bring the handout to class.**

**For your information:**

* As announced in the last lecture, the deadline for Report 1 has been extended until November 6 (same DGD as Test 2).
* Grades for tests and reports will not be posted on virtual campus. Lecture/DGD attendance is crucial, and graded tests and reports will be returned in class.

**Activity 1: A discussion of “The Illusion of Knowledge,” pages 306-330 of course pack**

Discuss the following questions. The purpose of this activity is to develop your literacy and critical thinking skills. Technical report writing is not a mechanical skill, and a life-long close engagement with texts is the single most important activity for fulfilling your writing potential.

1. Discuss Aboujaoude’s concerns about the effect of the internet on reading and knowledge.
2. What is the significance of the results of the eye-tracking experiment discussed on page 310?
3. How does the advice that Michael Agger, the editor of Slate, gives web designers on pages 310-311 strengthen Aboujaoude’s argument?
4. How does “virtual life” threaten “big ideas?”
5. What are the problems with social networking sites?
6. How has the internet affected attitudes toward education?
7. Do you agree or disagree with Aboujaoude’s arguments? What have you learnt from his chapter about how the Internet should and should not be used?
8. What have you noticed about citations in this text?

**Activity 2: Integrating sources into your writing**

Correct the errors in the following sentences:

1. Richard Westfall (1983) calls the young Newton “a provincial boy ate his heart out for the world of learning which he was apparently being denied.” (p. 174)

The original sentence from Westfall reads: “In 1660, a provincial boy ate his heart out for the world of learning which he was apparently being denied” (p. 174).

1. Isaac Newton states in the beginning of the Opticks (1704) that “my design . . . is not to explain the properties of light by Hypotheses, but to prove them by reason and experiments” (p. 1).
2. Shortly after Newton’s death in 1727, many poems were written to celebrate his achievement. “Only hyperbole can hope to express the reality of the man who returned to the dust in the early spring of 1727” (Westfall, 1983, p. 874).
3. Elias Aboujaoude (2012) blames the internet for undermining the practice of reading books from cover to cover when he writes:

One central pillar of knowing is reading. It is how we extend our horizons toward new scenarios of being. The lessons that we absorb from books, the characters that mark us, the mental notes that we take—all get stored in an inner library that we transport with us wherever we do. Then, when we need a reminder of them, they leap out of our brain to give us sustenance, just as they leap out of the page when they first touched us. We talked about the abuses inflicted on the written word by the Internet, instant messaging and texting. Not surprisingly, reading has radically changed too. And as the nature of reading changes, so does this internal library; so does our ability to carry it around with us; and so do the nurturing and beauty we are able to find in words. Words: We have lost patience for their complexity; do not find them worth supporting financially or in other ways; and do not think of them as something to capture and hold on to anymore (306-7).

**Activity 3: Is it plagiarism?**

This exercise, which uses APA style, has been copied from the University of Ottawa brochure *Beware of Plagiarism*, available at

https://www.uottawa.ca/about/sites/www.uottawa.ca.about/files/plagiarism.pdf

**Read the following source material:**

Over time technology has been instrumental in increasing industrial and agricultural production, improving transportation and communications, advancing human health care and overall improving many aspects of human life. However, much of its success is based on the availability of land, water, energy, and biological resources of the earth.\*

\* David PIMENTAL (1998) “Population Growth and the Environment: Planetary Stewardship,” Electronic Green Journal: Vol. 1: No. 9, Article 10.

<http://repositories.cdlib.org/uclalib/egj/vol1/iss9/art10>

**Discuss which of the following uses of the source are acceptable, and which are unacceptable.**

**(1)** According to Pimental (1998), technology has greatly improved our standard of living. He cautions, however, that technological progress is dependent on natural resources.

**(2)** Research has shown that technology has been instrumental in increasing industrial and agricultural production, improving transportation and communications, advancing human health care and overall improving many aspects of human life. However, much of its success is based on the availability of land, water, energy, and biological resources of the earth.

**(3)** Research has shown that the advancement of technology has been instrumental in increasing industrial and agricultural production, improving transportation and communications, health care and overall many aspects of human life (Pimental, 1998).

**(4)** In his article on the effects of population growth on the environment, Pimental argues that “technology has been instrumental in increasing industrial and agricultural production, improving transportation and communications, advancing human health care and overall improving many aspects of human life. However, much of its success is based on the availability of land, water, energy, and biological resources of the earth” (1998).

**(5)** Research has shown that the advancement of science has been beneficial to the areas of agricultural and industrial production and communication and transportation fields. Furthermore, science has greatly improved health care and is the prime factor in a higher standard of life for many people.

**(6)** According to Pimental, “technology has been instrumental in increasing industrial and agricultural production, improving transportation and communications, advancing human health care and overall improving many aspects of human life” (1998). He cautions, however, that technological progress is dependent on natural resources.

**Activity 4:** **Paraphrasing/summarizing**

Read each passage below, followed by its paraphrase/summary. In each case, discuss how the paraphrasing author used the source material meaningfully for his/her purposes.

Passages (1), (3) and (4) have been copied from **Purdue OWL:** <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/02/>. (2) has been copied from John M. Lannon and John Klepp’s *Technical Communication*. Toronto: Pearson, 2006. 124-26.

**(1)**

While the Sears Tower is arguably the greatest achievement in skyscraper engineering so far, it is unlikely that architects and engineers have abandoned the quest for the world's tallest building. The question is: Just how high can a building go? Structural engineer William LeMessurier has designed a skyscraper nearly one-half mile high, twice as tall as the Sears Tower. And architect Robert Sobel claims that existing technology could produce a 500-story building.

How much higher skyscrapers of the future will rise than the present world marvel, the Sears Tower, is unknown. However, the design of one twice as tall is already on the boards, and an architect, Robert Sobel, thinks we currently have sufficient know-how to build a skyscraper with over 500 stories (add citation).

**(2)**

Neither electromagnetic fields nor electromagnetic radiation causes cancer per se, most researchers agree. What they do is promote cancer. Cancer is a multistage process that requires an “initiator” that makes a cell or group of cells abnormal. Everyone has cancerous cells in his or her body. Cancer—the disease as we think of it—occurs when these cancerous cells grow uncontrollably.

[Name of author] explains that electromagnetic waves probably do not directly cause cancer. However, they might contribute to the uncontrollable growth of those cancer cells normally present—but controlled in the human body (add citation).

**(3)**

The Antarctic is the vast source of cold on our planet, just as the sun is the source of our heat, and it exerts tremendous control on our climate," [Jacques] Cousteau told the camera. "The cold ocean water around Antarctica flows north to mix with warmer water from the tropics, and its upwellings help to cool both the surface water and our atmosphere. Yet the fragility of this regulating system is now threatened by human activity.

According to Jacques Cousteau, the activity of people in Antarctica is jeopardizing a delicate natural mechanism that controls the earth's climate. He fears that human activity could interfere with the balance between the sun, the source of the earth's heat, and the important source of cold from Antarctic waters that flow north and cool the oceans and atmosphere (add citation).

**(4)**

Of the more than 1000 bicycling deaths each year, three-fourths are caused by head injuries. Half of those killed are school-age children. One study concluded that wearing a bike helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent. In an accident, a bike helmet absorbs the shock and cushions the head.

The use of a helmet is the key to reducing bicycling fatalities, which are due to head injuries 75% of the time. By cushioning the head upon impact, a helmet can reduce accidental injury by as much as 85%, saving the lives of hundreds of victims annually, half of whom are school children (add citation).

**Activity 5: Communicating common knowledge in your own voice**

The following passage has been copied from Richard Westfall’s *Never at Rest: a Biography of Isaac Newton* (page 5). Westfall discusses Galileo in the context of the background to Newton’s discoveries. The information in the passage is not original; it could be found in virtually every book about the Scientific Revolution. However, Westfall maintains a fresh and engaging perspective as he communicates common knowledge in his own voice. Discuss how he achieves originality.

[the passage follows a discussion of Kepler’s laws. Kepler’s laws correctly described how the planets moved around the sun without explaining the causality. Newton later discovered why they moved: because of gravitation]

The same year that saw the publication of Kepler’s *Astronomia nova* also witnessed the entry into astronomy of the instrument destined to become its principal tool. In 1609 Galileo Galilei first turned a telescope on the heavens, and the following year he began to publish his observations. Galileo was an ardent Copernican and attempted to turn his observations to the support of the Copernican system. He observed the rugged surface of the moon, which contradicted earlier notions of the crystalline perfection of the heavens. So did the spots on the sun, which formed and dissolved in relatively short periods of time, and which moved across its face, indicating that the sun turned on its axis. He discovered satellites of Jupiter, so that the earth ceased to be unique in its accompanying satellite. He observed the phases of Venus, which were incompatible with the geocentric system, since they demonstrated that Venus circles the sun. All of this and especially the last lent support to heliocentric astronomy, though there was no way in which Galileo or anyone else could observe the motion of the earth or the centrality of the sun through a telescope.