



MS804 Systems Development & Project Management Assignment

Requirement:

In groups of 4 or 5, you are required to:

- (i) Identify a specific systems development/project management problem or opportunity. This may be a problem/opportunity regarding the use or value of a particular method/concept or issue, or an organisational problem/opportunity to which that method/concept can be applied.
- (ii) Identify and review four key papers with respect to this problem/opportunity.
- (iii) Prepare a max 6,000-word report. The target of this report is a senior executive or project management in that organisation, who is familiar with the problem in question but may not be familiar with the method/concept you are reviewing and specifics in question. This executive has very little time to read and make decisions based on your report and may be sceptical about the problem and proposed solution. Bear this in mind when drafting the report.

Assignment Detail

Your report should comprise of 3 sections:

- (i) Summarise the key problem/opportunity (approximately 500 words). This should state the problem/opportunity, and its impact - why it would be of concern to your organisation of choice (and to that executive specifically). This can cover problems such as:
 - a. Any method e.g. DevOps, flow, Scrum or Large-scale methods such as SAFE, Scrum at Scale
 - b. Any aspect of the systems development or project management process e.g. technology investment decisions, testing, design, storytelling;
 - c. Any application of project management to a particular context e.g. blockchain, inner source; autonomous vehicles
 - d. Implications of development or project management approaches e.g.



an ethical dilemma, complexity etc.

The problem/opportunity can be general (e.g. how we manage software in autonomous vehicles) or narrow e.g. ethical issue of increasing the speed of these vehicles, or specific to a case/location e.g. adopting autonomous vehicles in Galway.

(6 marks)

- (ii) Select **four scientific** articles*, related to problem/opportunity you have identified. These articles can come from a variety of sources e.g. academic journals (e.g. any IS journal, Project Management Journal, IJPM), management journals (e.g. Harvard Business Review or MIT Sloan Management Review), or more practitioner-oriented outlets. You should choose based on the value of the paper to solving the problem. Articles in magazine do not count.

Review each article and relate it to the problem/opportunity in your chosen organisation. Each review should be approximately 750 to 1000 words.

* You may not use any article that has been identified or used as part of this or any other module in your degree programme. If you identify an article/report from that you would prefer to use but are unsure if it will be allowed, then please contact Henry to confirm that the article may be used for the assignment.

(12 marks)

- (iii) Concluding summary. The value of these articles to you and your chosen organisation should be clearly evident from the conclusions that you draw. The concluding summary should compare and contrast overall learnings from across the four papers (approximately 1000 words).

(8 marks)

- (iv) Presentation

(4 marks)



2. General Guidelines

Marks will be awarded for the demonstration of deep reflective learning and application to business practice. It is essential that the article is related to one specific organisation. What is there in this article that could inform decision-makers in the organisation? Why should the contents of this article be of interest to the organisation?

To assist in achieving reflective learning, it is recommended that before you begin writing that you discuss your ideas about this article and its importance to your organisation with your workmates and classmates. Your objective is to not only make connections between these articles and your chosen organisation but to also project forward and assess the impact of the article for the organisation/sector over the medium term.

3. Accessing Articles, Academic Referencing and Plagiarism

Access to the Harvard Business Review and Sloan Management Review Journals (and many more) is provided by the James Hardiman Library, which is assessable at <http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/>

If necessary, please refer to your notes from the induction library session. Kris will be happy to field any technical questions from you but that should not be necessary for this assignment.

As this is a personal reflection references are not strictly necessary. But, remember that if material is taken from someone else's work, or tables or figures are used from somewhere else, acknowledge this by citing a source for any ideas found in reading materials. This is done by **in-text citation** linked to a **List of Works Cited**, or a **Reference List** placed at the end of the report. If references are used, please use the Harvard referencing style. Copies of the following text are available in the library, which provides useful information on how to reference.

Pears and Shields (2013) *Cite them right: The essential referencing guide* (9th ed), Palgrave Macmillan

Please note that by submitting the assignment for grading you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the NUI Galway Plagiarism Code of Conduct <http://www.nuigalway.ie/plagiarism/>.



4. Submission Details

The submission will be via blackboard (MS Word or pdf document).

The cover page of the submission **must** contain the following information:

- Names and ID Numbers
- Title of the articles you are reviewing
- Number of words (main body)

Font: Times New Roman, Size 12

Spacing: Use 1.5 spacing throughout

Margins: Standard MS Word template

Page Numbers: In the footer, centre or right

Document length: Maximum 6,000 words

6. Assignment Due Date

Wed Oct 30th.

Feedback will be provided to students within two weeks following conclusion of presentations.