Homework 7 – Documentation and Warnings

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Due Date 11/16/25, 11:59 PM

Total points: 6

Part A:
Carefully review the principles you learned in the Lecture Topic of Displays and Documentation and Warnings. What are some of the "bad designs" that you can see from this warning sign? Please list at least 2 bad designs you can find and give brief explanations of what guidelines/human factors principles you used.

1. **Bad design: Poor Visual Hierarchy and Excessive Cognitive Load**
   The text presents all information of the same size and weight, making it impossible to distinguish between the prohibition on littering and the detailed penalties. The bottom-up processing principle does not effectively direct visual attention or control eye movement. MIL-HDBK-759C Guideline A (Essential information not emphasized). The warning about littering remains unnoticeable because it receives the same amount of visual attention as all other information. The current sign places legal penalties, instructions, and secondary information all in the same format. This violates the guideline that "NEED-to-know" information must be visually emphasized above "nice-to-know."

2. Missing Visual Communication Elements and Poor Inclusivity

   The existing warning sign fails to include symbols or pictograms that would help users with limited literacy skills or who speak English as a second or third language. The warning needs to support users who cannot read by using basic icons that convey information independently of complex text, in line with both audience principles and grading sheet criteria. The absence of visual aids, such as the "No Littering" icon, makes the message more difficult to understand at first glance, leading more people to ignore the warning across diverse campus populations.

Part B: New Warning Design

Warning_Design_KC.pptx