Can I do _____ with Linux?

Oftentimes, people are turned away from Free Software because they use specialized programs that don't have open-source alternatives. Here is a list of programs that can be used in place of proprietary equivalents (with some proprietary programs that also run on Linux thrown in for good measure).

Office Suite

Microsoft Office can usually be replaced by LibreOffice (a strictly open source version of OpenOffice). LibreOffice documents generally are highly compatible with Word and Excel files, but less so with Powerpoint or highly-formatted or macro-enabled files. If that's a problem, it is also possible to get Office 2010 running via the Wine compatibility layer.

LaTeX is a popular typesetting system that runs natively on Linux, Windows, and Mac OS. For many people, especially in computer science and related disciplines, LaTeX is the defacto document-creation format.

Math/Programming

MATLAB and Mathematica both run natively on Linux, but there are also open-source alternatives for each, called Octave and Sage respectively. Environments like Python and R are natively supported, as are IDE's like Eclipse. Most specialized scientific software runs on Linux, and might not run on anything else.

CAD

Unfortunately, there aren't many good CAD solutions for Linux. Solidworks and AutoCAD don't run; the nearest free equivalent, FreeCAD, is still under heavy development and isn't really ready for production use. On the other hand, Siemens NX is one of the most powerful CAD tools on the market and does run on Linux, yet it's too expensive for the average non-commercial user.

ANSYS Finite Element modeling software runs on rpm-based distros like Fedora or SUSE, and there are several free packages with similar functionality.

Multimedia

Blender, the popular 3D modeling suite, runs on Linux. Equivalents to basic programs like Paint are available in Pinta, and GIMP and Inkscape rival Photoshop in many respects.

Devices like iPods are pretty well supported under Linux. Most audio codecs will play, except "very proprietary" codecs like .wma lossless. Audio-recording software, like Audacity is available, and Reason/Logic-like capability can be found in the Linux Multimedia Studio (lmms) package.

Basic open-source video editors Pitivi and Openshot have about the same functionality as iMovie.

Games

Steam now runs on 64-bit Linux, and there are number of indie games offered in the repos.