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### **Reflection Assignment**

The assignment that I chose to reflect on is the Assistive Technology Research Paper that we were assigned as part of Unit 3 in the INST-968 course at Framingham State University. For this assignment we were given the opportunity to choose between summarizing an article about assistive technology, or writing a paper about an emerging technology in the assistive technology space. I decided that I wanted to do something about assistive technology in the workplace, so I chose the research paper. As part of the assignment we were asked to read a journal research article about assistive technology. Then we were asked to summarize the research hypotheses, methods, and outcomes in a short paper. At this point in the course we had a solid foundation of what assistive technology is, how it is used, and even experience researching specific technologies that help people with disabilities.

The major achievement of this paper was to get me to think about assistive technology not just in an school education setting, but in a professional setting which is much more relevant to me. I was really glad to find that much of what we had learned in the class about how assistive technologies can help in education, applied just as well to the corporate world. I struggled throughout the course to make connections to my own experience. However, after reading the research article and writing about it, I had a much better understanding of assistive technology's role in the corporate world.

The assignment helped me to learn about the challenges that companies experience when hiring a person with disabilities. It also helped me to understand the work being done to improve assistive technology in the workplace. Lastly, it gave me several tools and resources as

a future-manager to handle situations involving employees with disabilities. If I'm ever put in a position where I am hiring a person with disabilities I now have a better idea of what I would do to accommodate that new employee. For example, I would follow the six-step process outlined in the paper to really customize the assistive technology solution to the employee and make sure that it worked. The key point that I learned from the assignment was how to assess and evaluate an assistive technology solution. The article mentioned that many assistive technology solutions are abandoned because they are not implemented properly. So it's important to work with the employee to design the solution, implement the solution, and assess the solution. It was an eye opening research article, and one that will stay with me throughout my career. In fact, it made me interested in learning more about organizations like the Job Accommodation Network that operate more locally. I can certainly see how the problem developed, and thanks to this assignment, I will now be able to play a role in fixing it.