KVCC CPT 126 Introduction to Digital Literacy

Assignments

Instructor Name

Kennebec valley community college

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# Assignment 1 Should Information Be Free

Please note: Instructor is open to alternative methods of learning, please contact the instructor for more information at [insert contact information].

Much of what we seek for and use online is centered around information. We live in an age where we can access anything at a second’s notice from devices we can fit inside our pockets. Because of this access we are becoming conditioned to expecting all information to not only be always accessible but often free. This causes people to sidestep and completely question topics such as intellectual property. I want you to think about how you use information and the importance of its access to you and your life and answer the following questions:

1. Do you think all information should be free? Why/Why not?
2. Are whistleblowers like those involved in WikiLeaks justified? Explain?
3. Where do you draw the line? IE. is everything free or do some things have protections?
4. How has the access to a wealth of information on the Internet changed your life? If all information was free would this result change?
5. Has there ever been a situation where you needed information but could not access it due to cost?
6. Looking beyond yourself as an individual, how has the access to technology and information changed the world around you? Give Examples.

# Assignment 2 Computer of the Future

Please note: Instructor is open to alternative methods of learning, please contact the instructor for more information at [insert contact information].

One of the last things we mentioned in class today was to talk about different types of computers such as Ultrabook’s and desktops. We did not have much discussion on these computer types however I believe we all understand these devices. What I would like you to do is to think about what is currently available and then turn that thought to where you think things are going in the future. Some consideration should be placed towards how mobile our computing devices have become and the convergence of different devices such as cameras, phones, and computers.

1. What do you think the computer of the future will be like?
2. What capabilities will it have that computers currently don't have?
3. Do you see desktop or laptop computers becoming obsolete in the near future?
4. What changes do you foresee in the four main categories, that of input, processing, output, and storage (break each area down and explain in detail). How will these changes affect the way we interact with these computers of the future?

When answering please take time to think things through and analyze the current state of the market and use that to anticipate the future. On the face of it the question seems simple however open your imagination up and try to develop ideas and concepts. You have a week so spend some thought and then provide your answer. I would like some detail on this as to where you see the specifications of these future computers and how we will interact with them. As stated try to use your imagination but back this up with research that you conduct. Obviously I am not expecting you to have a crystal ball however provide the detail of your analysis and explain your thoughts and provide any support that you find.

# Assignment 3 Information Discernment

Please note: Instructor is open to alternative methods of learning, please contact the instructor for more information at [insert contact information].

In class we have been discussing things in relation to using the Internet. In this assignment the goal is to have you start to think on your usage of Internet as an information resource. I would like you to think on these and then ultimately answer the following questions:

We live in a world where it is very likely that we use the Internet on a daily basis in some form or another. We have access to information at a second’s notice and we come to almost take this fact for granted. In the first assignment we discussed the topic on whether or not this information should be free and due to this I will not touch on this further here. However, on this same vein much of this information is freely available and there is the capability to place any content on the web with no fact checking or verification. Due to the ability to place highly false information in openly accessible areas we have to find some way to fact check and discern our way through this mountain of data. The next few questions are on this topic:

1. What steps do you take to verify the accuracy of information you read online?
2. Do you ever attempt to identify the author’s bias and use that to determine if an agenda is present within the information? If not, why? If so how?
3. When have you ever discounted something based on its source- please provide an example?
4. What kind of sites do you trust without having to verify? Why is it that these sites are trust worthy to you and thus removes the need to fact check? Should you ever do this or should everything be researched?
5. If you were to create content on the web what would you do to assist your readers in being able to know or verify the information you provided is true?
6. What is your stance on wikis or other user generated sources? Why?
7. What would you suggest to do to make these types of sites better and ensure the quality of their information?

While we are speaking of gathering information online no conversation will be complete without the discussion of plagiarism. Please answer the questions below:

* 1. What are your thoughts on plagiarism? Be honest here please?
  2. When we live in a society where information is so plentiful and we rely on things for research what do you do to ensure you are not copying someone else’s work?
  3. Do you believe there is such things as original thoughts anymore? Another way to look at this is by the quote “there is nothing new under the sun? Why or why not do you believe this to be the case?
  4. Do you think we have enough protections in place online to protect from intellectual property violations or plagiarism? Why/why not?

e. If the role was reversed and you knew that someone was plagiarizing your work how would you feel? What would you like in return to see that justice is done?

# Assignment 4 Final Project Preparation

Please note: Instructor is open to alternative methods of learning, please contact the instructor for more information at [insert contact information].

As we discussed in the beginning of the course there will be a final project that will be due at the end of the semester. In an effort to get you to think about your project and to start to make decisions as to its direction I am assigning this assignment.

As a quick review this project starts with a scenario that you create. This could be something you have encountered or can be completely made up. In this scenario there is a business that is using some kind of software that is not functioning or has a series of problems. Your goal is to target all of the problems and then suggest a solution. You will research your options and then pick a method and build a persuasive argument as to why your final pick is the correct one. You will be pretending that I am the business owner and you are trying to convince me to follow your pick. The format of this project can take any form however I would like to have your research included.

Answer the following questions

* 1. What style of business will your scenario focus on?
  2. Describe the software package that has issues?
  3. What are those issues?
  4. At this point what are you planning for solutions?
  5. Where are you currently in terms of your project/What have you done so far?
  6. What are your next steps?

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# Assignment 5 Favorite Software

Please note: Instructor is open to alternative methods of learning, please contact the instructor for more information at [insert contact information].

The goal of this assignment is to start to explore options with various types of software. First you should think about a piece of software that you have enjoyed and use often. This can be a commonly known product or something obscure you doubt people have heard of.

* Post this software and provide a brief synopsis of its function and how you use the software and why you enjoy it.
* After your initial post you should wait until others have posted and then select two of the provided software’s and search for additional solutions. After your research select an option and then list why you think it would serve the persons use and would be a viable software to switch to.

The goal is to research solutions and be able to defend your proposed selection. Try to give links or other resources to provide additional information.

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# Assignment 6 Operating Systems Examination

Please note: Instructor is open to alternative methods of learning, please contact the instructor for more information at [insert contact information].

In class we have been discussing the operating systems and how they impact our modern work and personal lives. To get you to start thinking of operating systems and to begin researching your options answer the following questions and scenarios:

1. You are tasked with selecting an operating system for the following scenarios. Decide which operating system you would select and then defend your stance. There is no correct answer just provide the support:

a. A computer for a/an:

* Graphic design studio
* Computer programmer
* CAD Drafter
* Video Gamer
* Secretary
* Accountant
* Data entry worker
* Sales/marketer
* Web Designer
* Customer Service Representative

2. What ways do you interact with operating systems in your personal and professional lives?

3. What is your personal favorite operating system? Why is this your favorite?

4. What changes or features would you like added to your favorite operating systems?

5. Finally, I would like you to research an operating system that you have not heard of before and then write a quick review of your findings? (It is likely that this is going to be Linux based however there are other styles of operating systems such as for mobile devices that are unique and less known)

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# Assignment 7 Virus Research/Data Sheet

Please note: Instructor is open to alternative methods of learning, please contact the instructor for more information at [insert contact information].

Below are listed a few websites that list off various computer viruses. What I would like you to do is select a computer virus and then make a one-page data sheet or brochure on it. Some questions you should answer are:

1. What is the virus (if possible how did it get its name)

2. What does the virus do?

3. When was it discovered?

4. What operating system does it target?

5. What is the estimate of infection?

6. How can you remove it?

7. Any other information that you find to be applicable.

Websites:  
[Bitdefender Antivirus Database](http://www.bitdefender.com/resourcecenter/virus-encyclopedia/) found at: http://www.bitdefender.com/free-virus-removal/

[McAfee Antivirus Database](http://home.mcafee.com/virusinfo?ctst=1) found at: http://home.mcafee.com

[Symantec Antivirus Database](http://www.symantec.com/security_response/landing/azlisting.jsp) found at: https://www.symantec.com/security\_response/landing/azlisting.jsp

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# Assignment 8 Ethics in IT

Please note: Instructor is open to alternative methods of learning, please contact the instructor for more information at [insert contact information].

Your assignment is to pick one of the topics that was discussed in the Ethics in IT section (Listed below) such as privacy and describe your position in a similar way that was done in the point counterpoint section. The goal is to have you think on the topic and decide your stance and then write it in such a way that you are logically spelling things out and explaining what you believe. Once you have done this you will wait and then respond to one of your classmate’s postings. The point is to have you not attack the person's view but to ask questions or play the advocate to get them to think further and completely cement their view on the topic. The final step would be to then reply back to any questions that were posed to you. Again please be thoughtful as to others feelings and views, I want you to question things but not to try to tear apart someone’s beliefs. I look forward to the discussion that takes place.

Topics:

1. Social Justice

2. Intellectual Property

3. Privacy

4. Property Rights

5. Electronic Communication access

6. Computer Abuse

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