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**Digital Literacy I: Fundamentals**  
*Unit 5 Processing, Memory, Storage*  
**LAB 1 (Instructor)**

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**Explanation**

In this lab, students will check the specifications of their notebook-pc CPU, RAM, and HDD using Windows system properties. The lab procedure also includes identifying and describing the internal components of a desktop computer; students should be given assistance to remove the case cover if needed.

Students will also demonstrate how to utilize a USB thumb-drive; inserting the drive, accessing its contents, and properly ejecting and removing the drive are required.

**Prompts**

1. Is your CPU and RAM specification considered top-of-the-line, average, or low?
2. How long do you think it will take for you to fill-up your hard-drives capacity?
3. In two or three steps, describe how you would upgrade the RAM in a desktop computer
4. Would you prefer to carry along a thumb-drive or an external hard drive for extra or portable storage on your notebook computer? Explain why.

**Assessment Rubric**

CRITERIA	FAIL 0	POOR 1	FAIR 2	GOOD 3	Score
Checking Specifications	Unable to check specification for neither the CPU, RAM, nor HDD	Able to check specifications for RAM and CPU, not HDD	Able to check specifications for HDD but not RAM an CPU	Able to check specifications for CPU, RAM, and HDD	
Desktop Internal Hardware	Unable to identify and describe the purpose of at least one component	Identifies and describes the power supply, RAM, heat sink, CPU, and motherboard	Identifies and describes components in level 1 criteria plus the hard drive and optical drive(s)	Identifies and describes all of the hardware components listed in the Lab Procedure	
Thumb-drive	Does not know how to insert a thumb-drive into a USB port	Able to insert the thumb-drive, but unable to access its files	Accesses the thumb-drive, but does not safely eject it	Accesses the thumb-drive and safely ejects the drive	





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