

***La Roche College***

***Senior Seminar***

ISTC4055

**Hardware/Software Analysis**

The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with an opportunity to develop necessary skills in analyzing and comparing two products. This is something IT professionals do continually in their work place. They must select appropriate products to assist the company in achieving its goals and justify those selections.

**Objectives:**

1. Compare two products using appropriate criteria.
2. Recommend one of the products.
3. Justify the recommendation.
4. Present the analysis to the class using PowerPoint.

**Guidelines:**

1. Select a product category from the list below or one of your own with approval. You will compare 2 like products.
  - a. laptops for students or laptops for faculty
  - b. antivirus software for these laptops
  - c. server for hosting DVDs to be accessed by students taking online courses
  - d. videoconferencing software
  - e. html editor for use by nontechnical faculty in creating webpages
  - f. data projection systems for use in the classrooms and conference rooms
  - g. virtual worlds for use in creating an online community
  - h. blogging software for use on an intranet website
  - i. office suites for use on laptops
  - j. project management software
  - k. equipment for computer labs – PC or Mac
  - l. server for student web sites
2. Select the criteria on which you will base your recommendation. Make sure this is clear.
3. Use Word to prepare a paper meeting the following requirements: 5 pages or less, Calibri 12 point font, 1 inch margins, single spaced, divided into sections, and documented sources.

**Outline:** Title page with the title of the paper, your name, course, instructor, and date (doesn't include in the paper page count).  
Introduction – brief; should address what it is and why the company might want it; why should they spend the money?  
Brief description of the product including name and address of developer  
Criteria used for comparing these two projects  
Comparison using the criteria selected (use a table for this)  
Implications on IT and the organization (costs, time, support)  
Recommendation and justification  
Reference list – use appropriate citation format

4. Presentation – Each student will present their recommendation to a committee formed by a subset of your classmates. More on this later.
5. Submit your paper and PP through the assignment link.

Grading Sheet:

Name:

| Criteria                                                                                                                                                           | Points Possible | Your Points |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Selected a product category from the list or obtained permission for a different one (1)                                                                           | 2               |             |
| Title page present with correct information (1); did not exceed 5 pages (1); formatted as directed (1)                                                             | 3               |             |
| Introduction was brief (1) and included information as noted in the directions (1)                                                                                 | 2               |             |
| Product descriptions provided (2) including name & address of company (1)                                                                                          | 3               |             |
| Criteria for evaluation selected (3) and clearly communicated (2)                                                                                                  | 5               |             |
| Comparison based on the criteria 10-9 Excellent; 8-7 Above average; 6-5 Average; 4-3 Below average; 2-1 Poor                                                       | 10              |             |
| IT implications addressed                                                                                                                                          | 3               |             |
| Recommendation with rationale included (2); flowed from analysis presented (3)                                                                                     | 5               |             |
| Reference list provided                                                                                                                                            | 2               |             |
| Presented analysis on scheduled day (2); used PP following professional guidelines (5); demonstrated knowledge and spoke so all could hear(3)                      | 10              |             |
| Ask questions like a committee member would do (2); wrote a few sentence evaluation of classmates presentation (2); submitted this evaluation to the professor (1) | 5               |             |
| TOTAL                                                                                                                                                              | 50              |             |

Comments: