

COMPUTER RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

Your friend is interested in buying a brand new computer, but unfortunately he doesn't know anything about computers. Your friend is working with a \$1,000 budget and is looking for a computer that will allow him to run all the common and most current software applications, Windows 8 operating system software, as well as allow him to play video games, surf the Internet, play videos and music files, etc. He has offered to pay you and a partner \$100 to research all the major components of a computer for him. In order to earn the \$100 fee, for each hardware component you and your partner will need to do the following:



1. Briefly define each of the following components and provide a brief description of its function(s):

1. Processor (CPU)	2. Motherboard
3. Memory (RAM)	4. Video Card
5. Hard Drive	6. Optical Drive (CD, DVD, Blu-Ray)
7. Monitor	8. Power Supply

2. Explain what you need to know before you buy the component and what one needs to look for when buying one. In other words, explain the features that you should look for when buying the component. Be sure to explain any terminology associated with the hardware. For example, what does *RPM* mean in relation to hard drives?
3. To help you better understand the specifications of each component go online to any Canadian retailer to find a product that you would recommend to your friend, and be sure to include the specifications of the product. The following are some Canadian online retailers that you might find useful:

www.canadacomputers.com

www.tigerdirect.ca

www.newegg.ca

4. Prepare your report in paragraph format. You will need to write **at least one (1) paragraph** when defining and describing each component, and include a title/heading for each of the components you describe.

You may also find the following website very useful when researching what each computer component does and what to look for:

<http://www.bestbuy.ca/en-CA/research/desktop-computer-buying-guide/rc8771.aspx>

<http://reviews.cnet.com/desktop-computer-buying-guide/>

<http://www.pcworld.com/article/125649/DesktopsBuyingGuide.html>

Save your assignment as **Computer_Hardware_Assignment.docx** in your COMPLETED ASSIGNMENTS folder.

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NAME: _____

TOTAL: / 40

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	LEVEL 1 50 – 59%	LEVEL 2 60 – 69%	LEVEL 3 70 – 79%	LEVEL 4 80 – 100%	MARK
Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrates an understanding of computer hardware and related terminology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates limited understanding of computer hardware and related terminology <p style="text-align: center;">5.0-5.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates some understanding of computer hardware and related terminology <p style="text-align: center;">6.0-6.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates considerable understanding of computer hardware and related terminology <p style="text-align: center;">7.0-7.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates thorough understanding of computer hardware and related terminology <p style="text-align: center;">8.0-10</p>	/10
Thinking	<p>Identifies and describes correct terminology to describe hardware concepts</p> <p>Provides appropriate explanations of what to look for when purchasing each component</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and describes related terminology with limited success • Gives few appropriate explanations of what to look for <p style="text-align: center;">5.0-5.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and describes related terminology with some success • Gives some appropriate explanations of what to look for <p style="text-align: center;">6.0-6.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and describes related terminology with considerable success • Gives appropriate explanations of what to look for <p style="text-align: center;">7.0-7.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and describes related terminology with great success • Gives highly appropriate explanations of what to look for <p style="text-align: center;">8.0-10</p>	/10
Communication	Clearly describes computer components using correct grammar and spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes components with limited clarity <p style="text-align: center;">5.0-5.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes components with some clarity <p style="text-align: center;">6.0-6.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes components with considerable clarity <p style="text-align: center;">7.0-7.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes components with a high degree of clarity <p style="text-align: center;">8.0-10</p>	/10
Application	Makes insightful connections between what to look for and the products that are recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes limited connections between what to look for and the products that are recommended <p style="text-align: center;">5.0-5.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes some connections between what to look for and the products that are recommended <p style="text-align: center;">6.0-6.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes good connections between what to look for and the products that are recommended <p style="text-align: center;">7.0-7.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes insightful connections between what to look for and the products that are recommended <p style="text-align: center;">8.0-10</p>	/10

SPECIFIC CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS THAT ARE COVERED IN THIS ASSIGNMENT:

- A1.1 Use correct terminology to describe computer hardware, speed measurements, and size measurements.
- A1.2 Describe the functions of the internal components of a computer.
- A1.3 Describe the functions of common computer peripheral devices.
- A1.4 Assess user computing needs and select appropriate hardware components for different situations.