

Computer Literacy 1 Practical Assignment 1 (Sep 2008)

“The Truth is out there ... but so are lies”

The purpose of this assignment is to get you out there surfing the Net (which you'll have done before, sure) but this time you're to do it critically, evaluating the sources you visit. You must also *cite* all your sources in your answer using an appropriate convention¹ – you will find several conventions for how to include references if you consult a few academic papers in the refereed journals in the library.

Writing without consulting relevant sources is poor research. Including sources without citing them is plagiarism. Part of this exercise is getting the balance right.

Below is a topic. Out there are answers and opinions but many of them are biased, misleading, ill-informed, incomplete or just plain wrong. Out there amongst the reputable sources are self-publicists, lobbyists, weirdos, conspiracy theorists and possibly the odd small voice who really does have the answers amongst the noise.

Undertake your search, noting down the sources you visit. For each source you quote (and you will probably reject more than you quote) you should say **why** you have selected it (what you think of its quality — do you trust it? If so why? Have you researched the source? Does the source quote its material? What do other people say about it?), and **what** it contributes to your understanding of the question. Otherwise flawed sources may have a viewpoint that you want to include.

Your submission comprises an **essay** which should be of the order of 500 - 700 words (not more than 1 page!) quoting at least 4 sources, and a **presentation** (see below). The essay is worth about 2/3 of the marks and the presentation 1/3.

Your topic is:

Computers in Education: Computer aided learning is more and more established to spread and share educational contents all over the world. In your opinion tell us whether it works: does computer aided learning really facilitate learning?

Your starter for 10 –

Pro: Computers give students quick access to information. Nowadays it is necessary to know how to use a computer. Computers give remote students access to education online. It globalizes learning and makes education more widely accessible.

Contra: Schools and other educational institutions from poor areas could be excluded from this kind of education. Teachers don't know how to use a computer. Globalization of education might lead to a loss of cultural and teacher individual influence of learning experience.

Presentation

As well as the essay imagine you are giving a short 10 minute talk on the subject of your research. You should use Microsoft Powerpoint to create a short presentation and submit this with your Word document (If you don't have access to PPT please create a presentation within a text-file and indicate where one slide starts and ends). You should imagine your audience to be a small group of teaching staff and students (you'll be asked to do exactly this in later years of your degree course).

Creating presentations depends on personal style and preference but what you do **not** do is put on the slides word-for-word what you are going to say. This always sounds terrible for lots of reasons. You should think of the main points of your presentation

and lay them out in a logical and understandable manner. Choose backgrounds and a font/colour scheme that suit the presentation and look attractive, have a title slide on the front and make appropriate use of the other features you'll see in Powerpoint. Don't forget your presentation should have a beginning, a middle and an end! Something around 6 slides excluding the title and maybe a 'wrap' slide at the end should suffice (more is not necessarily better). The trick is to summarise your project well and there is actually an argument for writing the presentation first as this will mean you will have thought of the key points.

Submission

The following instructions should be followed exactly. Failure to do so will certainly lose you marks and may result in your assignment being lost.

You should hand in your assignment on paper at the ITO room 4.02 of Appleton Tower. The office is open: Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 5.15pm, although closes from 11.00-11.30am and between 1.00-2.00pm for lunch.

On the first page of your assignment it should say "CL1 prac1 submission" and your matric. number. Your essay should have a title at the top and be properly structured into paragraphs etc. with subheadings where appropriate. For the essay you should put your name and matric. number to left and right of the footer. In the centre of the footer you should put "Page m of n" where m is the page number and n is the total number of pages.

Deadline for submissions is 17.00 on Friday 10 October.