

Assignment 1: How Can Computing Help

- Choose a topic of interest. The most obvious choice is some hobby of yours, but you can also choose an area that is related to your degree or anything else you'd like to learn more about.
 - Find out how computing can help. For example, photographers might benefit from the advanced image capabilities of the latest version of Photoshop.
 - Look for specific connections to computing. Some questions to ask to get you started: What kinds of problems are faced? What can't be done easily by hand, or what is very tedious to do manually? Are there algorithms that can help solve these problems? What kinds of computer systems and/or software packages are used? How might people benefit from learning to think logically or computationally?
 - Use Internet and library resources, and ask people who know a lot about the topic to find out more.
 - Write a report of at least 1000 words summarizing your findings. Submit your report in Microsoft Word or PDF format, and be sure to include a bibliography.
 - Be sure to preview the 'grading form' above to see how your work will be assessed.
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Struggle with writing? Book an appointment right away with [Carleton's Writing Tutorial Services](#).

Struggle with research? [Get help at the library](#).

Grading Form

Objective/Criteria	Performance Indicators		
	Need Improvement	Acceptable	Excellent
Creativity	(1 points) The topic chosen doesn't have a very interesting link to computing, or the links given aren't very interesting.	(2 points) The topic and links to computing are moderately interesting. They make sense, but the student probably didn't have to think very hard or do much research.	(3 points) The student chose a less obvious topic and found some interesting links, and appears to have done substantial research.

Objective/Criteria	Performance Indicators		
	Need Improvement	Acceptable	Excellent
Writing Style	(1 points) The student's report has spelling errors and doesn't flow well. It is not organized logically.	(2 points) The report is reasonably written but has some issues with one of spelling/grammar, flow, or organization.	(3 points) The report is well written, flows nicely, and is organized well.
Description of Topic	(1 points) The student has not reasonably described their topic of interest, or has done a poor job of explaining the problems to be solved by computing.	(2 points) The student has described their topic of interest and the problems faced, but has not gone into much depth.	(3 points) The student has done an excellent job of describing both their topic of interest and the problems faced in depth.
Links to Computing	(1 points) The student has found only one or two links, or the links found seem far-fetched.	(2 points) The student has found three or four concrete links to computing.	(3 points) The student has found five or more links to computing that are well researched and appear to make sense.
Bibliography	(1 points) The student has not included a bibliography, or there are only one or two weak references.	(2 points) The student has included a bibliography, but the references do not show they have looked into a variety of sources to support their report.	(3 points) The student has a good, varied list of references in their bibliography.