COMPUTER RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT
SERIES OF PARAGRAPHS SUPPORTING AN OPINION

Your friend is interested in buying a brand new computer, but unfortunately he/she doesn't know anything about computers. Your friend is working with an $800 budget and is looking for a computer that will allow him/her to run all the common and most current software applications, Windows 10 operating system software, as well as allow him/her to play video games, surf the Internet, play videos and music files, etc. He/she has offered to pay you $100 to find a computer that would meet his/her needs and does not go over his/her budget.

THE TASK

TASK:	Write a **minimum** of **five paragraphs** expressing an opinion on the topic below. Develop your main idea with supporting details (proof, facts, examples, etc.)
PURPOSE AND AUDIENCE:	An adult or peer who is interested in your opinion and who needs help purchasing a new computer.
LENGTH:	500-750 words (2-3 pages, double-spaced)
TOPIC:	Finding a computer that meets the needs of the user and does not exceed his/her budget.

BEFORE YOU START WRITING YOUR SERIES OF PARAGRAPHS

1. Find a computer that meets your friend's needs and does not exceed his/her budget.

2. Briefly define each of the following components included in the computer and provide a brief description of its function(s) and how it will meet your friend's needs:

   - Processor (CPU)
   - Motherboard
   - Memory (RAM)
   - Hard Drive

3. To help you find a computer that would serve your friend's needs and to better understand the specifications of each component, go online to any of the following Canadian retailers:

   www.canadacomputers.com
   www.tigerdirect.ca
   www.newegg.ca
   www.bestbuy.ca

   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://www.cnet.com/topics/desktops/buying-guide/
http://www.pcworld.com/article/125649/DesktopsBuyingGuide.html

Like any series of paragraphs that express an opinion, you will need to ensure that you:

1. Develop a main idea (opinion) with sufficient supporting details
2. Organize information and ideas in a clear manner
3. Use proper grammar, spelling and punctuation

PLANNING YOUR ESSAY

- Organize your points in the order you want to talk about them (these will become your body paragraphs).
- Plan your introduction. In your introduction, you will need to state your opinion and introduce your paragraph topics.
- Once you have planned your introduction and supporting arguments, you are ready to write!

ORGANIZING YOUR ESSAY

PARAGRAPH #1
(Introduction Paragraph)

- State your opinion
- State the reasons (supporting arguments) why you hold this opinion

PARAGRAPH #2-4
(Body Paragraphs)

- Start with a topic sentence, which should essentially be a restatement of what will be your first supporting argument
- Provide supporting facts to support your argument
- End your paragraph with a concluding sentence that restates your topic and wraps up the paragraph

PARAGRAPH #5
(Concluding Paragraph)

- Restate your opinion and supporting arguments

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

COMPUTER RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT
SERIES OF PARAGRAPHS SUPPORTING AN OPINION

NAME: _____   TOTAL: / 40

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	< LEVEL 1 0 – 49%	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	• Demonstrates no under-standing of computer hardware and related terminology **0-4.9**	• Demonstrates limited under-standing of computer hardware and related terminology **5.0-5.9**	• Demonstrates some under-standing of computer hardware and related terminology **6.0-6.9**	• Demonstrates considerable understanding of computer hardware and related terminology **7.0-7.9**	• Demonstrates thorough understanding of computer hardware and related terminology **8.0-10**	**/10**
Thinking	Identifies and describes correct terminology to describe hardware concepts Provides appropriate explanations of how each component will meet the user's needs	• Identifies and describes related terminology with no success • Gives no appropriate explanations of how each component will meet the user's needs **0-4.9**	• Identifies and describes related terminology with limited success • Gives few appropriate explanations of how each component will meet the user's needs **5.0-5.9**	• Identifies and describes related terminology with some success • Gives some appropriate explanations of how each component will meet the user's needs **6.0-6.9**	• Identifies and describes related terminology with considerable success • Gives appropriate explanations of how each component will meet the user's needs **7.0-7.9**	• Identifies and describes related terminology with great success • Gives highly appropriate explanations of how each component will meet the user's needs **8.0-10**	**/10**
Communication	Clearly describes computer components using correct grammar and spelling	• Describes components with no clarity **0-4.9**	• Describes components with limited clarity **5.0-5.9**	• Describes components with some clarity **6.0-6.9**	• Describes components with considerable clarity **7.0-7.9**	• Describes components with a high degree of clarity **8.0-10**	**/10**
Application	Makes insightful connections between what to look for in a computer and the functions of each hardware component	• Makes no connections between what to look for in a computer and the functions of each hardware component **0-4.9**	• Makes limited connections between what to look for in a computer and the functions of each hardware component **5.0-5.9**	• Makes some connections between what to look for in a computer and the functions of each hardware component **6.0-6.9**	• Makes good connections between what to look for in a computer and the functions of each hardware component **7.0-7.9**	• Makes insightful connections between what to look for in a computer and the functions of each hardware component **8.0-10**	**/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.