HISTORY of TECHNOLOGY ASSIGNMENT

This assignment MAY be completed in partners.

Your goal is to profile one piece of computer related technology by examining its history.  In other words, you are to look into any ‘SMART’ device and tell me how it evolved to its current state.

You will also be discussing the “top of the line” models and predicting its future.  The following is a list of suggested topics.  Should you wish to choose an alternative topic, have it approved by Mr. Mikula before you begin.

Music Players

Laptops (aka notebooks)

Digital Cameras

Graphics Cards

Keyboards / Mice

Processors

Operating Systems

Storage Devices

Office Software

Monitors

Internet Connections

Game Systems

Calculators

Cell Phones

Robots (real life)

Household Appliances

For those of you really into computing, I recommend: **Processors**, **Operating Systems,** or **Storage devices.**

Begin by creating a new presentation, naming it “History of\_\_\_\_\_”, and then saving it in the Students Common drive under Mr. Mikula\Computers 10\History.

**Introduction (1-2 slides)**

* Title and names of partners
* Introduce your topic and include a discussion about why you are interested in the item. (2 or three sentences)
* A picture of the item.

**How ‘SMART’ is your device today (1-2 slides):**

* In the next few slides, discussed how *computerized* your device is. This can be answered in a couple of different ways.
* More Technical Answer: How many computers or processors (often referred to as *embedded processors)* are in a typical model of today’s device? (In other words, how many processors are found in a modern digital camera?) What companies make these processors? What do these processors do?
* Less Technical Answer: How have computers become more important to this technology?   How do people use computers to interact with them?

**(more on next page)**

**History (4-8 slides)**

* Find two websites dedicated to the “history of \_\_\_” or the “evolution of \_\_\_\_”.  Compare the sites and see if they agree on any important steps in the evolution of your device.
* Each group member is responsible for three or four steps in your item’s evolution NOT INCLUDING TODAY’S TECHNOLOGY.  *(For partners, you need to do 8 steps for top marks.  For individuals, you need to do 4 for top marks.)* To do this:

For each, include a relevant picture, the significant dates or eras and any company or inventors names that are significant.

Thoughtfully copy and paste 2-3 sentences/points that explain what made this step an improvement on previous technology.  This may include a discussion of competing products.

* In your own words, how much of an impact do you think this would have had on your life? (one sentence). You could start your sentence with: *I would have thought this was cool because...*

**Profile the best 3 that are available today (4 slides - or do it all on one slide if it fits)**

* For 3 of today’s top brands, create a separate slide on which you...
* Copy and paste 3-5 key features that make each device unique.
* Find a price and list it (and the store).
* Include a relevant picture for each slide.
* And the winner is...on a fourth slide, give your own opinion of their order from best to worst.

**Prediction for the Future (1 slide)**

* For partners, you only need one answer but you should discuss the questions with each other.  It should be entirely your own thoughts.
* Make a prediction regarding the next big leaps in technology your item will undergo in the future.  (Be thoughtful!  Don’t just say “better graphics” or “faster”).
* Will your item become more or less popular / important?  Explain.

**History of Technology Marking Rubric:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Excellent | Good | Acceptable | Needs Improvement | Weighting |
| Introduction | All components are completed thoroughly and thoughtfully. | All components are completed. | Some components are missing or incomplete. | Most components are missing. | /4 |
| History | 4 steps per person are profiled thoroughly and thoughtfully. | 3 steps per person are profiled thoroughly and thoughtfully. | 2 steps are profiled thoroughly and thoughtfully. | Several steps are missing or lack the requirements | /8 |
| Profile of Top Three | All three models are compared in 3 ways. All other requirements are in place. | All three models are compared but missing detail. All other requirements are in place. | Other requirements are missing. | Opinions are used in place of evidence.  Other requirements are missing. | /8 |
| Prediction for the Future | All questions are answered thoroughly and thoughtfully. | All questions are answered but lack thought. | Some questions are unanswered. | Most questions are unanswered. | /4 |
| Copying and Pasting |  |  | You often put in your own thoughts and words | Using your own thoughts and words is rare (almost everything is copied and pasted) | /2 |