

English 1 – Maxfield

February 8, 2011

1. Go over I-search project handout.
2. Brainstorming - sheet
3. Complete k from KWL chart.
4. Take your K section and organize it into logical paragraphs. What do you already know about your topic?
5. Type Part 1.
6. Save your work on your server or a flash drive.
7. Homework: Come up with a list of three people you might interview for this project.

Example – **Your paper should be double spaced, in a size 12 font – example is not.**

Part 1: What I Know

There are literally dozens of brands of laptop computers on the market. One reason I choose to research the Apple Mac Book Pro is because several friends have touted the excellence of Apple laptops. On numerous occasions, in casual conversation, when the topic of laptops came up, Apple laptops always get strong positive comments. Usually the people who do not comment positively have little or no experience with Apple. I would include myself in that category.

Logically then, I choose to research Apple Mac Book Pro because I know far less about Apple than I do about IBM based personal computers (PC's) and laptops. My first experience with Mac products came in college. One of my roommates had a desktop Mac. I'm not sure of the model, but I do remember it had a black and white screen, it was more than sufficient for typing papers, and there was an addicting (but graphically challenged) version of computer football. More recently, I used Mac desktops and miniature laptops when I taught summer school in the Ladue School District. I enjoyed the laptops because they were set-up as a mobile lab. This worked well when teaching writing. I was not as thrilled using the desktops because I have gotten used to the double-buttoned mouse and windows operating systems of a PC.

Although I do not have much personal experience with Apple, I do consider myself fairly computer literate, mostly with desktop machines as opposed to laptops. I do occasionally use my wife's work laptop (Gateway) on my wireless network at home, and I would like to purchase a laptop for personal and school use. I originally considered researching Sony VAIO laptops because my current desktop computer is a VAIO. I purchased it about 5 years ago and at that time, it was a top of the line machine. It still is consistently fast, both in running programs and accessing the Internet. I have upgraded hardware and accessories, and added and deleted software over its lifespan. My one main issue has been the LCD monitor that has a loose wire and occasionally (sometimes frequently) fades out.

Finally, I also have minimal knowledge of several projects designed to put laptops in the hand of students. I know many private schools in this area are providing or plan to provide laptops to freshman when they enter high school. The public school system of Kansas City also just recently decided to do the same thing. I do not know if other public schools have similar plans, but I would like to find out.