

Jan. 8, 2009

1. Go over I-search project handout.
2. Use journal to complete and type Part 1. See example below.
3. Save your work on your server or a flash drive.
4. Complete W from KWL chart - at least 10 questions
5. Journal 12: Take your W section and organize it into logical paragraphs. What do you want to know about your product? Why?
6. Type Part 2. See example on back.
7. Save your work on your server or a flash drive.
8. 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.**

### **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.

## **Part 2: What I Want to Find Out**

The first thing I would like to find out is if an Apple Mac Book Pro is a suitable addition to my computing collection. If I am to purchase a new computer, I want to know that it will be compatible with what I already have. Two issues that fall into this category include setting up the laptop on my wireless network and making sure software is compatible from one machine to the next. I do not want to work on a project on my desktop that I cannot later edit or use on my laptop. There may also be other issues in this area that I will find out while I research.

Second, I would like to find out if the Apple Mac Book Pro is the best laptop for teacher use. Some of the same compatibility issues arise in terms of creating and displaying presentations and other teacher created resources. I plan to survey other teachers to find out what types of laptops work for them. This includes questions such as: How many teachers currently own a laptop? How many currently use a laptop in their classroom? And, how many teachers would use a laptop to help them teach if he or she had one?

Next, I would like to learn more about the programs that distribute laptops to high school students. I believe (but I am not sure) that the public school system of Kansas City is using Apple laptops for its program. How much is this costing the school district? For those private schools in the St. Louis area, how is their program funded? Are the programs that have been implemented successful? How likely is it that Mehlville will start a similar program? I realize all of these questions may not pertain exclusively to Apple Mac Books, but the research process has piqued my interest.

My final emphasis of research will focus on buying a Mac Book Pro. What is the best price available? Is online shopping the best way to buy a laptop? What locations in the St. Louis Area carry Apple products? I think this will be more than enough questions to try to answer in my I-Search paper.