Overview of the Technology and Professional Review (TPR) Assignment

There will be two sub-assignments that will be due in the first two weeks of the term. These two reviews will help the rest of us understand where you stand in your professional development both in terms of your technological skill sets and in terms of your classroom, extracurricular, and off-campus experiences. The two sub-assignments include

1. A review of your recent experiences with communication technologies and systems (either on-campus or off) followed by a review of any important in-class, off-campus, and extracurricular (MTU-related experiences but not connected to class activities). Include an honest description of your strengths and the challenges you face as you enter the last 1/2 of your tenure at MTU (see The TPR Assignment Itself).

2. A review of the patterns you saw and the insights you came to as you read your classmates’ TPRs (see Learning about your classmates).

The TPR Assignment Itself.

Technology Review

At this point in your career at MTU you have spent a good bit of time learning and using many types of technology for your classes and for personal work. In this review talk about the most effective technology-learning situation that you have encountered: where are you working? Who is around? What online and hardcopy resources have you used? Other factors? What skills, attitudes, or approaches (SAAs) do you have that help and which do you still need to develop?

What’s next? What technologies and approaches do you want to learn this term? List and rank at least five choices. With each of these five choices, list the names of students or teachers who are accomplished users of each technology.

We all need to continue to develop (learning from each other) more sophisticated approaches to learning new technologies and systems. We need to explore and develop strategies for addressing any technology-related challenges that you face as you approach your final year(s) as an HU major. Both the list of technologies you have yet to master and the SAAs associated with learning new technologies should form the basis for a technology goals statement.

During the technology instruction and practice for this course (as opposed to HU 2640), we will try to develop a deeper understanding of and more facility with one or two of the most frequently used technologies in your professional fields. Because we can not cover everything, we will negotiate which technologies are most important. That negotiation begins with this technology review assignment.

Professional Review

Learning Record review:
Look at your Learning Record and decide which documents/materials you need to develop as well as which competencies you need to work on.

In addition, most of you have worked through a number of classes that have strengthened your professional abilities. We would like you to report briefly on those for the benefit of everyone in this group. We also need to hear (please be candid) about what professional skills, attitudes, and approaches (SAAs) you still need to work on during your final year(s) in our programs. These SAAs should be the basis for a professional goals statement. Outline a plan to take classes or engage in other activities that will help you meet these goals. This assignment will allow us to see the variety of professional objectives that people hold, and how they will attempt to meet those goals. Just reading about other peoples’ professional ambitions often helps us further define our own.

Some of you should be quite knowledgeable about the pre- and post-graduation opportunities in your field of study: summer jobs, internships, co-ops, university or departmental positions, grant opportunities, etc. Others may not be aware of these positions. We’ll share and then collect those opportunities for use in the future.

What to do?
Over the next day or two, please compose a technological review and a professional review (TPR) and then upload them to our class web site (http://director.hu.mtu.edu/moodle, under Humanities Courses and HU3640/week one) by Wed. of the second week. Your classmates and I will then have the week to read those reviews before attempting the second portion of this assignment, due before class on the third Wed. of the term.

You can create your TPR in any program that is easily viewed and read using software in the CCLI: audio, animation, video, text, images, sound clips. It can also be a web document. You are responsible for making sure that you TPR is easily view/readable.; this is part of the grade for this assignment. If you turn it in as a single file, use this naming convention when you save and upload your TPR document: "TPR_yourinitials.doc" (Mine would be TPR_ds.doc). The naming of your file (or site) will also be counted in the grading of this assignment.

You have an 8 MB file size limit for your TPR.

Remember that your classmates and I will be reading everyone’s TPR. Make them useful and interesting but not too long.

(Optional Questions) Reviewing Technological and Professional Experiences

If you need more questions to prompt your writing of the TPR, try these. You do not have to use them if the assignment is already clear.

Technology Review Questions and Comments:
• What has been the most powerful (useful? discouraging?) technology experience of the last two years? (NOTE: Be realistic. You do NOT have to proclaim your love for technology in this assignment. Give us a realistic appraisal of your relationship to technology, good, bad or changeable.)
• What technologies do you know very well? Which do you still need to learn more about?
• What person or people do you go to for technology help? Why? Are there online sites that you use for up-to-date information and recommendations?
• What SAAs are you known for? Which do you need to develop?
• What professional equipment do you plan on purchasing next?
• Technologically speaking, what challenges do you see in the near future? How might you address these challenges?
• What fundamental production software or system should we focus on this term?

Summarize your technology goals for the duration of your tenure at MTU.

Professional Review Questions and Comments:
• What is your major and what (at this moment in time) would you like to do with your degree?
• Describe the classes, extracurricular activities, or off-campus experiences that have helped you develop as a professional.
• What SAAs do you still need to develop in order to become a highly qualified professional?
• Update the personal growth chart you started in HU2640.
• How well do you collaborate with others? What team skills do you need to develop in order to become more effective at collaborating?

Summarize your professional goals for the duration of your tenure at MTU.

Learning about your classmates

Now that you’ve composed your own TPR, read the TPRs of others in the class. Don’t read them passively though. Take notes online (in an MS Word document, for instance) on the patterns you see as people answered the main questions. What insights did you have as you read? In other words, what did you learn that was useful or interesting? What did you learn about your classmates’ attitudes or approaches to technology? What did you learn about their professional experiences and goals? We will discuss these observations online during week two of the term and then follow that up with a class discussion on Wed. of the third week.
Evaluation Criteria:
Technology and Professional Reviews

1. The TPR was uploaded in a timely manner using the appropriate naming convention and is easily readable or viewable.

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<td>Timely and readable</td>
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Comment:

2. The Technology Review provided useful information on the person's technological skills, attitudes, approaches, and learning strategies.

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3. The Professional Review was a thoughtful attempt to describe recent experiences and plans for continued growth.

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<td>Thoughtful and forward looking</td>
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4. Thoughtful notes were posted on the class forum called "Reflecting on the class' TPRs" in a timely manner.

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5. Class comments reflect a close reading of all online TPRs and postings.

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Comment:

6. The final product is professional and mechanically correct.

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Comment:

**Evaluation:** Needs considerable work Average Outstanding