

Computer on a budget!

Imagine: It's a nightmare! You wake up and there are no more computers in your life, and you need a computer! Your parents have graciously offered to provide you with up to \$1500 for your computer setup in your room. This project will take you through the research, decision-making, and financial aspects for the purchase of a home computer.

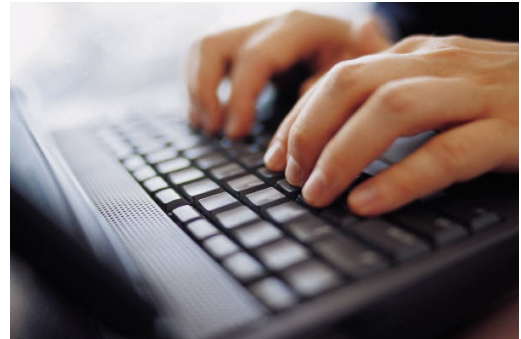
Uses

The first step before you start looking at any computer models is to consider what uses you have for your computer. If you are a big gamer, then you will want good video, processor, sound, and possibly gaming controllers. If you will be doing schoolwork on the computer, you might want to budget for a printer. If you are a music fan, then you might want to include an MP3 player as a peripheral. Make a list of the things that you will be using the computer for.

Budget

You have \$1500 to buy yourself your ideal setup. This must buy:

- The computer itself
- All peripherals (printer, game controllers, sound card, MP3 player, digital camera, tablet, scanner, etc)
- Any software for your needs** (Operating system, Office software, graphics software, music software)



Research

Now that you know your computer needs and the hardware and software that you want, it is time to research your purchases. It is very important that you are a well-informed consumer. You should start with the computer itself. Select a computer system using flyers, magazines, catalogues, and web sites - even local stores. You may price out individual components to put a system together, or you may choose a packaged desktop or a laptop, depending on your needs.

Presentation

In order to convince your parents to make this purchase, you decide to create a presentation about the computer. An excellent presentation should help significantly in persuading them to buy the computer you have chosen. Your presentation must include slides with:

- The list of your computer uses and requirements
- The technical specifications of the computer (one per slide)
 - CPU, RAM, HD, Optical Drive, Keyboard / Mouse, video card, sound card, Monitor
- The operating system
- Other purchases (peripherals, software)
- Budget Spreadsheet
- A bibliography of websites used for your research

Financial Spreadsheet

You must make sure that you have enough money for all of your purchases. A spreadsheet is a good tool for this task. Create a spreadsheet that will show all of your purchases and their prices. It will also calculate a subtotal of the prices, the amount of HST (13%) and the final total. Remember you have \$1500 to spend and not a penny more!

Buying a Computer – Rubric

Criteria	R	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Knowledge					
Evidence of Product Research	Components not itemized or explained	Components explained with limited knowledge	Components explained with some knowledge	Components explained with significant knowledge	Components explained with excellent knowledge
Thinking / Inquiry					
Evidence of Evaluation and use of criteria for decision making	Limited / no apparent research	Limited evidence that part were critically evaluated against user's needs	Some evidence that parts were critically evaluated against user's needs	Significant evidence that parts were critically evaluated against user's needs	Excellent evidence that parts were critically evaluated against user's needs
Communication					
Presentation :	Presentation is very short and/or very poor	Presentation has limited content and is not aesthetically pleasing	Includes complete computer system & price, and effort on style	Includes complete system, price, is aesthetically pleasing and presenter makes an effort to engage the class	Includes complete system, price, is aesthetically pleasing, creative and engaging
Application					
Spreadsheet :	No spreadsheet	Inconsistencies in spreadsheet	Spreadsheet includes most peripherals and components	Spreadsheet includes all peripherals and components	Spreadsheet includes all information and uses formulas
Variety & List of Components as they apply to you	Most components are missing	Many required components are accounted for	Most required components are accounted for	Most required components are accounted for, or choices are insightful.	All required components are accounted for and choices are insightful.