The Great Computer Challenge

Desktop Presentations

*Level III*

*2014*

The world’s first “School in the Cloud” opened its doors last year in Killingworth, England, designed by Newcastle University’s Professor Sugata Mitra. Professor Mitra created the Self-Organized Learning Environment (SOLE) as his new vision of education which pairs up the vast resources of the Internet with a student’s innate sense of curiosity, and allows students to teach each other. In each of these new schools, students gather together in a physical space where they explore new ideas and challenges, individually and in groups, guided by a teacher who appears on a computer monitor. Other education leaders have proposed cloud-based virtual schools in which students gather together online for the bulk of their learning, and only join each other physically every few weeks for testing and class planning.

Your task is to develop a presentation that describes *your* vision for a virtual “school in the cloud”. In the presentation, explain how a virtual school might be designed, and the challenges (and solutions) of going to school online. Describe the advantages (e.g., don’t have to decide what to wear, no waiting in the rain for the bus, school-supplied computer and broadband internet for every home, no bullying, etc.) and disadvantages (e.g., no school sports, cannot be with friends, limited opportunities to develop social skills, no free lunch, etc.) of a virtual school.

When developing the presentation, start by having each group member describe their vision of a virtual “school in the cloud”. Then take your list of advantages and disadvantages, and develop a virtual school design and structure. Organize and shape your ideas so they leap out of your presentation.

**PowerPoint Presentation Requirements:**

* The PowerPoint presentation must be no longer than 5-10 minutes and have between 10 to 15 slides.
* The PowerPoint presentation slides must be advanced manually.
* The full text of what should be narrated by the presenter for each slide must be in the notes section of the PowerPoint presentation slide.
* The presentation is required to have both a Title slide and Conclusion slide. The Title slide must have the name of the presentation and name of the school; the Conclusion slide must have the names of the team members and any references or citations to information used in the presentation.
* The presentation must fully cover the topic area.
* The presentation must have an appropriate template or background that is used in a consistent manner.
* ClipArt/graphics/photos must be included on at least ¼ (25%) of slides.
* Audio and/or video must be included on at least one slide.
* Consistent transitions are used between slides.
* Any text on a slide uses the 6x6 rule (no more than 6 lines and 6 words per line) or uses the 6 second rule (you can read the content of the slide in 6 seconds).
* Topic is relevant and of interest to the appropriate age group.
* The content must have a logical flow throughout the presentation.

Presentations will be judged in accordance with the attached guidelines.

# Guidelines

### General Guidelines:

* Be creative. Consider your audience.
* You may use scanned images, graphics, clip art, fonts (typefaces and sizes) and other multimedia to enhance the presentation. Design and layout of the presentation will be judged, as well as the quality of writing, so do be sure to use a spellchecker and check for grammatical errors.
* Sequencing of the information is very important in Desktop Presentations. Pay attention to the flow of ideas in your presentation.

### Specific Guidelines:

You will be judged on the following criteria:

* Following guidelines (Are there 10-15 slides? A Title slide and Conclusion slide?)
* Topic relevance and accuracy of the content
* Spelling and grammar
* Sequencing of the information
* Originality/creativity
* Text and font selection/formatting
* Background used in slides
* Functionality of link(s) (work correctly, link to the proper location)
* Slide navigation and transition (slides move forward manually; transitions are consistent)
* Visual presentation
	+ Use and effectiveness of graphics
	+ Graphics sources (original or compliant with copyright)
* Audio/video presentation
	+ Appropriate use and quality of digital photos
	+ Appropriate use of sound and/or video (if used)