

## HSC IPT | Technology Journalism – Longitudinal Assessment

### **Assessment prologue** .....

One of the key characteristics of the IPT course is how its primary concepts are constantly changing. Technology moves at an alarming rate and trends seem to indicate that this rate is accelerating. As such, the technologies and issues that make up the subject have become their own subsection of the news. Entire websites and communities have been born to discuss the latest trends in technology and the effect that these trends have on society as a whole.

### **Assigned task** .....

This task is a longitudinal assessment that begins in Term 4 2012 and concludes in Term 1 2013, consisting of several ‘rounds’ (each lasting a fortnight). Every round, each group of 4 students must cover a unique current affairs situation related to technology.

The timing for each round is as follows. Once a round begins, groups are invited to read the news and consider any current affairs that relate to technology. Their aim is to select a situation that they will write informative articles about. As soon as a group finds a suitable situation, they should reserve it immediately by posting on the given space on our class website – this is so that there is no overlap between the articles written by different groups. Situations are reserved on a first-come first-served basis.

The following Monday, each group must publish two news articles that address the situation from different perspectives. Every article should:

- ▶ Outline the situation
- ▶ Synthesise relevant views and opinions
- ▶ Highlight elements of the situation that specifically relate to the IPT course
- ▶ Take a position on the social and ethical nature of the situation
- ▶ End with a question related to the situation that acts as a launchpad to further discussion

Each article should be approximately 400 words long, and may include links to other content (such as relevant images, blog posts, news sites or videos).

After the articles have been published, students will have the opportunity to read the articles composed by the other groups. Each student must then submit a 100-word post responding to at least two articles written by other groups sometime in the following week. These posts may be responding to the original article or to subsequent posts. The deadline for these response posts is the Monday after the articles were published.

## Assessment schedule

A timeline of the dates for submitting articles and posts is shown below:

Round	Date	Description
<b>1</b>	Tue 20 Nov (Wk 7)	Round 1 begins. Groups to consider current affairs and select a situation for their article; any group may reserve a particular situation starting from this time
	Mon 26 Nov (Wk 8)	Submit Article 1 by 9am
	Tue 27 Nov	Groups to read Article 1 submitted by other groups and consider who you will respond to with a short post; response posts can be posted any time between now and Mon 3 Dec
	Mon 3 Dec (Wk 9)	Final deadline for submitting Response Posts 1 and 2 (9am)
<b>2</b>	Tue 4 Dec	Round 2 begins. Groups to consider what situation to base next article upon; any group may reserve a particular situation for Round 2 starting from this time
	Mon 10 Dec (Wk 10)	Submit Article 2 by 9am
	Tue 11 Dec	Submission open for Response Posts 3 and 4
	Mon 17 Dec (Wk 11)	Final deadline for submitting Response Posts 3 and 4 (9am)

*The 2013 timeline will be published next year, prior to the commencement of Round 3.*

Throughout the duration of this assessment, a custom space will be set up for students to post their articles and responses. Students will also be required to make a record of their submissions on central register after they have posted them.

## **Assessment rationale** .....

The aim of this assessment is to assist students in developing:

- ▶ A broader awareness of technology trends in the world today
- ▶ An appreciation of how the course content of IPT intersects with everyday life
- ▶ An understanding of the complex social and ethical issues that relate to technology in our society and culture
- ▶ The ability to interpret real-world situations and construct sophisticated lines of thought
- ▶ Skill in forming arguments and responding to others' points in an informed and thoughtful manner

## **Outcomes assessed** .....

- H1.1** applies & explains an understanding of the nature & function of information technologies to a specific practical situation
- H3.1** evaluates & discusses the effect of information systems on the individual, society and the environment
- H3.2** demonstrates and explains ethical practice in the use of information systems, technologies and processes
- H4.1** proposes and justifies ways in which information systems will meet emerging needs

See marking rubric overleaf. Elements denoted by an asterisk (\*) are special criteria that clarify the differences between adequate and superior responses, above and beyond addressing the core outcomes of the assessment. This assessment will have both a group and individual component that contribute to each student's marks (articles being a group effort, while response posts are composed and marked on an individual basis).

Legend:     I.T. = information technology / information technologies  
              I.S. = information system / information systems

## Marking Rubric

Level of competence demonstrated	Marks <sup>#</sup>
<p>Demonstrates complex and sophisticated understanding of assigned communications issues by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ *exhibiting appropriate questioning of and reflection upon relevant issues</li> <li>▶ *presenting coherent discussion with clarity</li> <li>▶ *using question structure and sequence to effectively articulate and draw out knowledge</li> <li>▶ applying and explaining the nature &amp; function of I.T. in a specific practical situation</li> <li>▶ evaluating and discussing the effect of I.S. on individual, society or the environment</li> <li>▶ demonstrating and explaining ethical practice in the use of I.S., technologies and processes</li> <li>▶ proposing and justifying ways in which I.S. will meet emerging needs</li> </ul>	9-10 (5)
<p>Demonstrates basic understanding of assigned communications issues by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ *displaying increased accuracy, depth, knowledge, understanding and logic</li> <li>▶ *displays multi-faceted understanding of contextual effects that result from communications</li> <li>▶ applying and explaining the nature &amp; function of I.T. in a specific practical situation</li> <li>▶ evaluating and discussing the effect of I.S. on individual, society or the environment</li> <li>▶ demonstrating and explaining ethical practice in the use of I.S., technologies and processes</li> <li>▶ proposing and justifying ways in which I.S. will meet emerging needs</li> </ul>	7-8 (4)
<p>Demonstrates basic understanding of assigned communications issues by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ *accurately describing contextual effects that result from communications</li> <li>▶ applying and explaining the nature &amp; function of I.T. in a specific practical situation</li> <li>▶ evaluating and discussing the effect of I.S. on individual, society or the environment</li> <li>▶ demonstrating and explaining ethical practice in the use of I.S., technologies and processes</li> <li>▶ proposing and justifying ways in which I.S. will meet emerging needs</li> </ul>	5-6 (3)
<p>Demonstrates basic understanding of assigned communications issues by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ explaining the nature &amp; function of I.T. in a general or abstract situation</li> <li>▶ evaluating the effect of I.S. on individual, society or the environment</li> <li>▶ explaining ethical practice in the use of I.S., technologies and processes</li> <li>▶ justifying ways in which I.S. will meet emerging needs</li> </ul>	3-4 (2)
<p>Demonstrates basic understanding of assigned communications issues by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ identifying the nature &amp; function of I.T. in a general or abstract situation</li> <li>▶ describing the effect of I.S. on individual, society or the environment</li> <li>▶ outlining ethical practice in the use of I.S., technologies and processes</li> <li>▶ examining ways in which I.S. will meet emerging needs</li> </ul>	1-2 (1)

# Each article is scored out of 10 and each response post out of 5. Marks in parentheses are for response posts.