Computer Buyer's Checklist

- Are you going to purchase a Mac or PC? Laptop, Desktop, Notebook
- What will the computer be used for?
- Think of all the uses you will have for your computer and check out the software programs available for those uses. What are the students’ needs?
- Make a list of (hardware and software) that you might consider purchasing.
- See what kind of computer and software other teachers are using.
- The advantages of a Mac are its ease of use and its graphics capability. More speed, superior software, and better color matching make Macs are better for desktop-publishing, web page design, video, and other graphical applications. The major disadvantages are its incompatibility with the PC world even though there are some ways around that. (You can buy software that emulates Windows.)
- Don't forget that your decision isn't cast in stone. In 3-4 years, you will probably be buying a new computer, and you can change then.
- Compare costs for comparable computers and check out student or educational discounts if they may apply to you.
- If you’re new to computers, try out both kinds. Ask friends to show you how they work.

Your paper must include the following:
Processor type
Processor Speed
RAM (memory)
Hard Drive Capacity
CD/DVD Drive
Sound Card
Monitor Size
Speakers
Video Card
Printer type and model; Pages printed per minute; types and cost of printer cartridges
Number of USB Ports
Is there a toll-free technical support phone number?
Is there a cost for technical support?
What is the warranty?
What educational software will be purchased?
Additional accessories that might be useful, e.g., storage cases, furniture, extra cabling, surge protector, anti-glare/radiation screen for monitor?