Mac vs. PCs

You are to write a persuasive essay arguing that either Macs or PCs are better. Some of you will have very strong opinions about this issue whereas others may not have much experience with one or the other. We will discuss the differences and similarities between the two in greater detail over the next couple of weeks but in the mean time, the research you do for this paper will give us a good starting point. You do not have to talk about specific models and should focus on the differences between all PCs and all Macs.

Your essay must be at least 1.5 pages long, 12pt Times New Roman double-spaced without any funny margin business! You will have (at least – negotiable) two class periods to work on it. I recommend you spend the first period gathering sources and creating an outline then write for most of the second period.

Obviously, the debate is highly subjective and depends a lot on the situation. For example, I use both Macs and PCs for different situations. **You must define a context for your argument and present the criteria you are valuing most**. For example, you could build an argument for the most appropriate computer for your mother who is not very computer savvy and has high budget. Your choice may be very different than it would be for your gamer older brother. Pick one situation and argue the appropriate computer type for it based on your research and experience.

Requirements

Your essay must have the following elements:

- An introduction stating what your context and criteria are (cost? User friendliness?)
- At least 5 sources. You may cite them as you find most appropriate. I recommend using footnotes as in the example below (see http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word/HP012265221033.aspx).
- A conclusion summarizing the arguments you have made.

Grading

This essay will be worth 50 project points. You will be graded on the inclusion of the requirements above as well as the quality of your argument and your writing.

Note that I am aware of the "free essays" available online. They suck.

Example Segment

"Many people will point to Window's frequent crashes as a major weakness. However, the newly-released Windows 7 is promising to change this dramatically, as declared by Intel engineers who were very skeptical of Windows Vista.[1]"

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[1] http://www.informationweek.com/news/windows/operatingsystems/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=212900741