Guidelines for Written Assignments
Written assignments are due THURSDAY of each week, as a Word email attachment by midnight. A late penalty of 10 points per 24 hours will be assessed. Ranette.halverson@mwsu.edu. Place “History – assignment name” in the subject line.

Place a header including your name and assignment title centered at the top of the first page only. Include bibliographical information if applicable (title, author, date source). Attach a copy of the article or a link to it in the email. Essays #1 and #2 require an article.

Single spaced. 2000 to 2500 words in length for the body of the essay. (I will use Word Count – you should too.) Body - Indent each paragraph ½ inch or 5 spaces. Do not add additional spaces between paragraphs.

An ESSAY is not a research paper. I use the term essay because it is to heavily incorporate your EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT, and OPINION of the topic. Give your opinions freely, but support them with facts and research as much as possible. You may use other people’s opinions, also, but be sure to cite your sources. You might view your essay a short paper that is trying to convince me of your view.

Grading
Grade will be based on format & length (as specified above), and grammar. The overriding factor, however, will be content. I urge you to write, let it sit a day, read aloud to yourself, then revise. Because there is little testing, the written assignments will make up a significant portion of your grade. Be certain that you clearly address the question being asked.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Penalties range from receiving an grade of zero on an assignment to receiving a grade of F in the course. The primary consideration is the following: You may include in your writing references to any sources, ideas from your sources, and you may quote from your sources, but YOU MUST cite the sources and give credit to the source/author. This web site contains a variety of links to provide more details and instruction. http://www.plagiarism.org/

To cite your sources, a variety of approaches may be taken. You may use the traditional, numbered list of references at the end of your essay and use the numbers in the body. (Do not include the list in the required length of the essay.) You may cite a source as part of the body of your essay, e.g. “In his book “A History of Modern Computing”, Paul Ceruzzi suggests that ...” This is an acceptable citation method. Please feel free to consult me with any questions regarding appropriate use of citations.

Essay #1 - “Were they right?” – Due June 12
Find an article that was published in the 1960’s, 70’s, or 80’s (earlier is ok, but will be harder to find) which includes in it predictions or implications about the future of the computer or some aspect of computing. (There are several of these listed in the bibliography at the back of the textbook. See your text pages 104 & 121 for examples.)

Write approximately 1000 word reviewing main points (predictions) of the article. Then 1000 words answering the question “Were they right?”

Essay #2 - “The Effect of Computing Technology on ????” – Due June 30
Fill in the ???? with a current and interesting topic of your choice. Some possibilities include, but are not limited to: stock market, education, war, military, communication, shopping, terrorism, banking, manufacturing, etc. Discuss the nature of your topic before or in early years of computing technology, and how it has changed over the years. You must read at least 1 article related to your topic and incorporate these into your essay. This is NOT an article review, however; it is an essay.
**Terminology - Due June 23**

From the list of terms provided on separate page, select 5. Write 500 – 750 words on the origination, evolution, and current usage of the term. (The term may refer to a process or activity.) Use the information in your textbook plus use one supplemental source. Keep a copy for yourself and be prepared to discuss in class.

**Essay #4 - “How Computing Changed the World” – Due July 7**

State 4 significant ways in which computers have changed the world in general or persons’ lives in particular. For each one, discuss how this change has been both positive and negative. Each discussion should be between 500 and 750 words. You cannot use the same topic that you used for Essay #2.