Assignment 4: Mock Meeting, Technology Summary

**Overview**

In a mock meeting with the class as audience, each member of your team will deliver a persuasive 2-minute oral argument in favor of a particular product technology. You will be assigned to examine a specific product technology, and you will research that technology before the mock meeting. The purpose of the mock meeting will be to persuade the meeting's moderator, (i.e., the instructor or boss), that the product technology is worth investing in. For example, the purpose of a mock meeting might be to convince the instructor that wind power is the most promising energy source for the future.

The team must assign one member to cover each of the following topics, which will be delivered in order in the mock meeting:
1) The motivation and potential market that justify pursuit of the product technology
2) Competing technologies or products
3) The advantages of the product technology over the competition
4) Potential disadvantages of the product technology relative to the competition
5) Issues related to the feasibility and cost of using the technology in products

When covering each topic, the goal is to persuade the boss that the assigned product technology is worthy of investments in it.

You may bring a sheet of facts or figures to the meeting, but y*ou will not be allowed to read from notes during the meeting*. This assignment requires you to sort through technical information and summarize the most important points in an impromptu setting so that others can understand it.

**Summary Contents**

Your 2-minute summary should include the following elements:

- Overview sentence (summarizing the entire topic)
- Background and context
- Coverage of assigned topic
- Summary sentence (restating the primary point you made)

**Product Technologies**

Carbon-free energy source:
    wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, or nuclear
Future computing technology:
    quantum computers, nano-tubes, optical circuits, IC's but new materials (e.g., for oxides)
Internet access:
    DSL, iPhone, cable modem, free wireless, satellite
Launch technology for space flight:
    space elevator, electromagnetic gun, drop from plane, drop from balloon
Auditing of touch-screen voting machines:
    (See http://www.verifiedvotingfoundation.org/article.php?id=6028)
    none (i.e., it isn't necessary), cryptography and associated elements

## Grading Criteria

**1)** Content complete
2) Relevance of information presented
3) Organization
4) Prioritization of content
5) Simplification of technical terms and processes
6) Knowledge of topic
7) Speaking skills (choice of words, creation of context, awareness of audience, confidence, professionalism)
8) Persuasiveness