

Penny's Search Essay Question Ideas

Here are a few suggestions for essay questions:

1. Explain the reason that MP3 files are popular on the Internet. (Responses may include information about file sizes, compression, ease of sending, and quality of music.)
2. What is FTP and why is it important? (File transfer protocol is the most common way of sending data from one computer to another.)
3. How do search engines work? (Answers may include information about databases, keywords, and Web crawlers finding and indexing sites.)
4. Why is video streaming important for viewing video on the Internet? (Answers may include information about breaking down the files into tiny packets that are sent out through the Internet one at a time, but can be viewed as they arrive. It's like a stream of packets coming in with the video. Without video streaming, it would take too long to download a video on most computers.)
5. What problems do packets face when traveling through wireless connections? (Answers may include: Space weather such as meteor showers, comets, sunspots, or asteroids; interference; latency, which is the delay between transmission of data and reception of data; and distance.)
6. What types of careers were described in Penny's Search and how do these careers rely on technology? (Answers should include marine biologist, research scientist, and independent recording artists and use of the Internet for finding and obtaining information as well as devices such as underwater cameras and music encoders.)
7. What did the game Penny's Search teach you about your Internet use? (Answers may include information on search engines, Web crawlers, Internet congestion, hacker packets, encoding, security keys, file transfer protocol, satellite communications, video streaming, and firewalls.)
8. Discuss the statement, "All careers of the future will involve the use of technology." (Responses may dispute the statement, but should come to the conclusion that technology use will grow in a variety of careers beyond the computer industry, as demonstrated in Penny's Search.)
9. If you were a Website designer, what would your site include? What would it look like? Why would people want to use it? (Answers should feature exciting ideas for Web design and content.)

