Chapter 1: Hands-on Activity – Information System Concepts

An information system is a set of interrelated elements or components that collect, manipulate, store and disseminate data and information and provide feedback to meet an objective. You want to create an information system for a gas station. The information system must consist of input, output, processing and feedback. The input into the system will be type of gas that a person selects (Regular, Premium, Super), number of gallons and total merchandise. If the person orders over $10 worth of merchandise from the gas station store, they will receive a 10% discount on the total gas purchase. The output from the information system will be the total cost to the customer.

1. Create the chart below using Microsoft Word's table feature. Use the chart to list the type of processing needed to produce the output. Save the file as **Ch1SysConcepts.doc**
2. What feedback would be helpful to the gas station owner?
3. What feedback could the gas station owner use for forecasting?

Input	Processing	Output
Cost per gallon		Total Cost
Number of gallons		
Merchandise Total		

Chapter 1: Hands-on Activity – Specialized Business Information Systems

Many specialized business systems use knowledge management systems, an organized collection of people, procedures, software, databases, and devices to create, store, share and use the organization's knowledge and experience. Use a search engine such as www.yahoo.com or www.google.com to research a specific knowledge management system, artificial intelligence system, expert system or virtual reality system in the area of your academic major or area of interest. Write a one paragraph summary about the system. You can type the paragraph using Microsoft Word and save the file as **Ch1Specialized.doc**

Some suggested systems are medical expert system, agricultural expert system, medical virtual reality system and business knowledge management.

Some questions you should consider while you are reading the article:

1.   How is the system being used in the area?
2.   Is the system replacing a manual system? If yes, how?
3.   Is the system replacing a current computerized system? If yes, how?
4.   What skills are required to use the system?

Chapter 1: Hands-on Activity – Outsourcing

Outsourcing involves contracting with outside professional services to meet specific business needs. The outsourcing of IT jobs with overseas companies has been a controversial discussion in the IT area. Use a browser such as www.yahoo.com or www.google.com to research the advantages and disadvantages of outsourcing IT jobs. Type the advantages and disadvantages into a chart using the table feature in Microsoft Word. Save the file as **Ch1Outsourcing.doc**

Outsourcing	
Advantages	**Disadvantages**

Based on your research has outsourcing benefited IT companies in the United States?