**Portland State University**

**School of Business Administration**

**BA 301: Research and Analysis of Business Problems**

**Term: Spring 2011**

Homework Assignment #2 Instructions

Format/Requirements

* Hand this in during the class session, not by email.
* Use Times New Roman, 12-point font and the format provided in the Homework template.
* Make sure you show your name, course number, and section number on the page.
* Number the answers, and place them in the correct order.

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Questions

1. By this time you should have completed some research on your chosen company for the term paper. List at least four problems currently faced by the company, and characterize them using the mission critical/urgency grid discussed in class. Make sure that what you are describing is really a “problem”, i.e., “a gap between the actual and the desired” or a “contradiction between principle and practice”. Choose one of these problems as the focus for your term paper and write a clear problem statement as part of this homework assignment. This is a crucial component in your term-long project, so I would recommend that you spend some time on it. It’s difficult to solve a problem if you don’t define it very well.

**Special Note: Bring a separate copy of your problem statement to class for group review during Group Activity C (see the class schedule for the date.)**

2) Find at least one “peer-reviewed (refereed)” research source/article for your term paper. Provide evidence that it is peer-reviewed by printing out and including the relevant page from the Ulrich’s web site. Write up the information about this article as you would include it in MLA format in your research paper bibliography.

3) Complete the “Fun With Excel” exercise using the instructions and data file located on my web site. There are two sets of instructions – one for pre-Excel 2007 versions and one for Excel 2007. The user interface is quite different for these two versions. Follow the instructions completely, print out your results, and attach them to the homework assignment (please do not print out all of the regression data from question 1, just basic stats and the graph – be judicious and save paper). **Make sure that you specifically answer the questions and include those with your homework**. This exercise requires that you have the Data Analysis package installed for Excel. If you don’t, you’ll need your original Microsoft discs. I suggest that you don’t wait until the last minute to complete this assignment.