Short Paragraph:

My interests lie generally in the field of information technology (IT). My focus is particularly the design and operation of a DOD contractor information technology system in a secure manner. Working in the IT field for 4 defense contractors over the last 18 years has opened my eyes to the myriad efforts employed to defend against cyber-attack. Protecting information is a combination of several processes which must run in parallel. The idea is that each component is like a layer of protection with the added principle of overlapping functions. The theory is that if one function fails there will be another to block the attack.

Short Essay Answer:

When my children were very young I would listen to them doing their reading assignments. The books consisted of sentences of 4 to 6 words which were always monosyllabic. But this is to be expected of such an immature reader. And the writing which they produced was less complex. Again, this is to be expected.

However, with time and exercise of the intellect one should anticipate significant improvement. Unfortunately there is a dearth of teaching critical thinking skills which engenders a tendency to only perform rote memorization. Writing samples from the up and coming generations have increased the number of words in a sentence and the number of syllables in each word. But the content is little better than a cut and paste from a variety of sources strung together like a chronological daisy chain. Another might be a well-organized collection of facts and figures. Still others appear to be the preceding overrun by a tornado; a plethora of data in a disorganized pile.

These essay structures exhibit nothing more than the successful storage and retrieval of data but no real intellectual development beyond the most rudimentary. True intellect questions, wonders and dreams. This is the triple-lane Autobahn of genius. If students are not challenged to look beyond the stale facts and identify vulnerabilities in the status quo the growth of their mental agility will be severely impaired.

When a student is taught to reasonably and amicably dissent, the road to rational inquiry is opened in the mind.

Albert Einstein is alleged to have said "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them". No matter who we should cite for this statement, it is a profound truth which dogmatists cannot comprehend. New and different thinking is the life blood of progress. Stagnated thought is a morass from which a society might never escape.

Seasoned academic writers employ processes well defined steps. Bean (Engaging Ideas) espouses a method of writing which begins with sensing that there is a problem with some concept or principle, whether widely held to or not. This quite naturally leads to the quest for all that might be brought to bear upon the subject. After such an arduous journey one would do well to rest up from the rigors of the path just plodded. During this respite the mind is not idle but is like a stew, simmering the data identified previously and producing new questions. And so the process is repeated, again and again; each succeeding implementation of the 3 step process expanding the breadth of knowledge focused on the first question.

As the writer is beginning to put into print thoughts derived from the preceding steps there is the expectation that this will only be a vague notion of what the finished product will be. This work in progress must undergo any number of rewrites before it can move to the final step. Editing is the polishing that ensures grammar, diction and punctuation are smooth.

Create a Dialogue:

Achieving Effective Acquisition Of Information Technology In The Department Of Defense

> The adoption of IID (iterative, incremental development) approaches coupled with a focus on the end-user experience does not mean, however, that other stakeholders and nonfunctional requirements (such as information assurance, reliability, and so on) are unimportant (p. 12).

The first step of the IID process has to do with requirements. By law and executive order information assurance is as much a part of the requirements as the end result. Failure to abide by these mandates can incur severe consequences.

> Nonfunctional requirements for software-intensive IT systems such as security and information assurance, operational availability, scalability, and performance are fundamental attributes of systems architecture, especially in distributed systems, and they need to be communicated clearly by the appropriate stakeholders. Similarly, the operational environment in which such a system must function can profoundly affect the system architecture (p. 71).

Thinking of information assurance as a non-functional requirement could lead to cutting corners and treating it as just an afterthought.

> The goal of CHSS (COTS hardware, software, and services) programs is to exploit commercially available products and services without modification to meet DOD needs, although ruggedization to meet environmental requirements for deployed or deployable systems can be addressed in this category of programs. Key requirements that should be addressed in such programs include capability, capacity, scalability, operational availability, information assurance, and, in the case of deployed or deployable programs acquiring hardware, the environmental qualification of the hardware components and any associated ruggedization (p. 74).

It is evident that the committee does not fully understand what information assurance is. Ruggedization would fall under information assurance the same as environmental controls or personnel background investigations.

Committee on Improving Processes and Policies for the Acquisition and Test of Information Technologies in the Department of Defense. National Research Council. National Research Council, Division on Engineering and Physical Science. (2010).*Achieving effective acquisition of information technology in the department of defense*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Review of the U.S. Department Of Defense Air, Space, and Supporting Information Systems Science and Technology Program

> The DoD budget today is about 25 percent lower in real terms than at the end of the Cold War (p.2).
>
> At the start of the 21st century, the Air Force air systems S&T budget was less than half its level only 10 years earlier. Moreover, a large part of the remaining investment is constrained by Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) mandates (p. 3).
>
> The annual trillion-dollar commercial investment in information technology is three orders of magnitude larger than DoD's billion-dollar budget for information systems technology. DoD needs to be prepared to take maximum advantage of these commercial advances (p. 4)

After only 4 pages it would seem there is a more than slight preoccupation with money. Most of the members of the august committee would stand to profit from an increase in DOD spending on technology. Unfortunately the budgets discussed are so immense that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to truly analyze them to determine if we the people are getting a return on our investment.

Committee on Review of the U.S. Department of Defense, Air and Space Systems Science and Technology Program. National Research Council, Division on Engineering and Physical Science. (2001). *Review of the u.s. department of defense air, space, and supporting information systems science and technology program*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

APA Scavenger Hunt:

What is capitalized in a book reference in the reference list?

- The first letter of the author's last name and initial
- The first letter of the reference's title and the first letter following a colon. Also, any proper nouns
- The first letter of the publishing city and state symbol
- Use title case for the publishing company name

What is capitalized in a journal reference in the reference list?

- The first letter of the author's last name and initial
- The first letter of the reference's title and the first letter following a colon. Also, any proper nouns
- The title of the publication should be capitalized as published.

Give an example of each in a reference list.

- Book:

Bentz, V., & Shapiro, J. (1998). *Mindful inquiry in social research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

- Journal:

Jiraporn, P., Singh, M., & Lee, C. (2009). Ineffective corporate governance: Director busyness and board committee memberships. *Journal of Banking & Finance*, (33), 819-828.

Begin your own "cheat sheet" for APA for types of references.

- Webpage:

Sion, A. (2009). *Phenomenology: Basing knowledge on appearance*. Retrieved from
      http://www.thelogician.net/2b_phenome_nology/2b_pheno_frame.htm

- Book:

Bentz, V., & Shapiro, J. (1998). *Mindful inquiry in social research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

- Journal:

Jiraporn, P., Singh, M., & Lee, C. (2009). Ineffective corporate governance: Director busyness and board
      committee memberships. *Journal of Banking & Finance*, (33), 819-828.

It will be interesting to look at the people and culture piece of protecting information.

You understand Bean's point of focusing academic writing on examining a problem.

You might think about how to use specific content from sources to make your points, as opposed to opinions.

The dialogue is interesting, next time maybe put it in your own words, i.e. the two ideas.

You did show critical analysis in seeing the lack of understanding.

Good job on references!

APA says it is all double spaced, but no one does that, i.e. journals do single spaced within a reference.