DECISION MAKING ASSIGNMENT (50 points possible)

After reading chapter 5 in the text and the lecture, complete a 4-6 page paper. The paper should use 1 inch margins, be double spaced and written in Times New Roman 12 point font. Please put your name and student number in the upper left hand corner. Read these requirements closely, and be sure to proof read; points will be taken off for writing that is not college quality and for not following instructions. The paper should have four sections with headings.

Decisions are, by definition, conclusions or judgments about some issue or matter. The desire to maximize positive outcomes and to minimize mistakes motivates individuals to make the best decisions that they can. Decision Making is the process of making a choice between two or more alternatives. Decision-making models are useful because they provide a way to visualize how the elements of a decision interact.

Each of the following decision-making models lends itself to different types of decisions. For practical application, put a decision (appropriate to each model) in each of the Chain, T-grid, Central-satellite, and DECIDE models (a different decision for each of the four models). The decisions can be a decision you have made, need to make, would like to make, or hope to make.

CHAIN MODEL: works best for smaller, systematic decisions (see page 139).

1. Clearly state the decision to be made.
2. Complete the Chain model by identifying the sequence of steps (decisions) in the action plan.
3. What resources are needed?
4. Evaluate how using the chain model helped maximize positive outcomes and minimize mistakes, uncertainties, or risks.
5. Clearly state your decision (conclusion).

T-GRID MODEL: Useful for two (or three) sided decisions (one or another, yes or no) (see chapter 5 PowerPoint).

1. Clearly state the decision to be made.
2. Complete the T-grid model by listing the pros and cons of each side of the decision.
3. What resources are needed?
4. Evaluate how using the T-grid model helped maximize positive outcomes and minimize mistakes, uncertainties, or risks.
5. Clearly state your decision.

CENTRAL-SATELLITE MODEL: is suitable for large decisions surrounded by smaller decisions (see page 139).

1. Clearly state the decision to be made.
2. Clearly state the surrounding smaller decisions of the central decision.
3. What resources are needed?
4. Evaluate how using the Central-satellite model helped maximize positive outcomes and minimize mistakes, uncertainties, or risks.
5. Clearly state your decision.

**DECIDE MODEL:** The DECIDE acronym provides an easy way to remember the six common steps most people follow in decision making (see pages 135-136).

1. **Define** the decision to be made.
2. **Estimate** what resources are needed (time, energy, money, information).
3. **Consider** and list alternate courses of action
4. **Imagine** (visualize) and list the consequences of decision and alternative courses of action
5. **Develop** an action plan (and implement it)
6. **Evaluation** along the Way (Evaluate how using the DECIDE model helped maximize positive outcomes and minimize mistakes, uncertainties, or risks).
7. Clearly state your decision.