

Name: _____ Email: _____

**I450 – Designing and Developing an Information System
Midterm Exam - Fall 2003**

Conciseness in communicating ideas is a skill that takes practice. Your goal should always be to communicate the most amount of information in the smallest amount of space. For example, long email messages are less likely to be responded to than brief email messages. The questions are phrased in a way that might be posed in an email message from your supervisor. Answer the following question in the space provided on this paper. We've provided a range of the count of words in your response that you should target. If you go under the range you will probably be incorrect. If you go above the range you are wasting both time and space, and will probably be incorrect.

1: The new Vice President of development claims that the company he last worked at was able to develop new versions of their program every 6 months. He is concerned that our current rate of delivering a new version every 18 months is too slow and wants us to propose a different, faster model of development. I'm worried that we won't be able to change from our traditional waterfall model. What should we do? (Points: 35, Minimum words: 50, Maximum words: 150)

2: When we started missing the early deadlines I hired several high-priced consultants to do the development. Now I have to explain to my boss why we're late and over-budget! What went wrong with our project? (Points: 35, Minimum words: 50, Maximum words: 150)

3: You assigned me the task of developing a data design for our new sales application. I analyzed how people purchase items from us and was surprised to learn that in our 100-year history no customer has ever bought more than two items from us at a time. Here is the best possible design. What do you think? (Points: 35, Minimum words: 50, Maximum words: 250)

OrderID	Customer Name	Order Date	Part1	Price1	Qty1	Part2	Price2	Qty2	Total

Extra Credit: I just read a confusing article during my flight that described the difference between data, information and knowledge. What do you think are the differences? (Points: 10, Minimum words: 25, Maximum words: 50)