

EXPLORATORY WRITING EXERCISE

BACKGROUND

Last week's lecture topic was the concept, importance, and use of CONFIGURATIONS in SolidWorks. To gain an understanding and competency with using configurations, you were assigned exercises using parts of your own design that integrate configurations, and that were to be completed for today's class. Now that you have had a lecture, in-class tutorial handout, and practical exercises to complete, you will complete an in-class writing assignment based on this material.

SCENARIO

You are at your first job in the profession after college. In the design consultancy where you are employed, you are working on a new product. One of the suppliers has an office in China where some of the product's development is being done simultaneously. You need to explain in writing to their designer about the concept of configurations, how they function, their use and benefits in product design using SolidWorks.

- Do not concern yourself with spelling and grammar. Concentrate on writing down the information.
- Be as descriptive and complete as possible.
- Write in an *e-mail format* in a professional format to the designer.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Write an overall description of configurations in SolidWorks addressed to their designer. Use sentences.
2. In an e-mail format, begin by explaining configurations, how they function and their use and benefits in SolidWorks.
3. Then, explain step-by-step how configurations are constructed. You may use point form for this part of the letter.

OUTCOMES

1. Gauge students' understanding of the concept(s).
2. Reduce stress for students less comfortable with asking questions in class.
3. Help reinforce students' understanding and retention of the materials through descriptive writing.
4. Students gain competency in clearly and coherently writing for a professional business scenario.
5. Provide instructor with feedback on the effectiveness of course materials.
6. Provide instructor with the opportunity to identify and resolve questions and problems with course materials.

TIME LIMIT

½ hour

VALUE

5% of course total