

**Trends in Supply Chain Unit Instructions**

**Course**

Supply Chain I

**Objectives**

* Students will analyze the logistics operations of a specific retail company for value-added services that maintains competitiveness in the industry
* Students will research current trends in supply chain and write an informative essay describing the trends
* Students will analyze supply chain automation and how it is providing a comparative advantage for companies

**TN State CTE Standards**

**Trends #20:**

Analyze case studies of the logistics operations of various retail companies to see how they plan for and adjust their operations to remain competitive with companies such as Amazon, Wal-Mart, and Kroger.

**Trends #21:**

Using websites and journals from professional organizations related to transportation, distribution, and logistics, identify five trends that are impacting local, regional, national, and international supply chains. Trends could include such factors as rising fuel costs, movements toward fully automated warehouses, and greening the supply chain. Summarize research in an informative essay that includes: a. description of the trend and explanation of how it affects the supply chain, b. examples of how various businesses are responding to the trend, and c. an outline of the information that must be considered before a business implements any change, including a formal cost-benefit analysis.

**Trends #22: (Covered in Quarter II)**

Describe how eCommerce has changed traditional supply chains. Analyze how continual changes in technology have affected the delivery of goods and services in both the business to-business and business-to-consumer segments of the supply chain.

**Trends #23:**

Analyze automation processes that have replaced the work of laborers within nodes of supply chain channels. Compile an exhaustive list of the costs and benefits associated with the use of human laborers versus automation systems, specifically in warehouses. Debate the ramifications of each to efficiency, productivity, and local economic indicators. Determine when it becomes advantageous to replace laborers with machines.

**Essential Questions**

* How can value-added services allow a company to remain competitive in their industry?
* What trends are prevalent in supply chain today? How will these trends change supply chain management?
* What impact is supply chain automation having on labor, productivity, and efficiency?

**Duration**

3 weeks

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| ACTIVITIES |
| **Assignment** | **Due****Date** | **Date Completed** | **Grade** |
| Reading: *McDonalds Value-Added Services* |  |  |  |
| Activity: Retail Comparison of Value-Added Services |  |  |  |
| Reading and Questions: *The Future of Logistics is Racing Towards the Last Mile* |  |  |  |
| Reading: *How Supply Chain Automation is Changing the Landscape in 2020* |  |  |  |
| Project: Blockchain at Walmart: Tracking Food from Farm to Fork |  |  |  |
| Reading: *State of Logistics 2020: Managing the Supply Chain in a Changed World* |  |  |  |
| Project: State of Logistics 2020 |  |  |  |