INF5790, questions from assigned readings, May 13th, 2011

1. Discuss the research designs in the two studies, and how they use "control group" as part of a naturalistic study (not in laboratory). What are strengths and weaknesses of this form of mixed methods?

2. What are the pros and cons of using technological support (prompts, sentence openers, critiquing, etc.) to scaffold web-based inquiry learning and essay writing?

3. What can a 1) designer and 2) teacher do to make sure that the prompts they incorporate are beneficial for the students' learning?

4. How can the cultural artifacts and concepts embedded in the learning environments affect the students' performances (institutional, procedural, interactional aspects of cultural artifacts in the first study) and two specific concepts/techniques in the second study (reflection-in-action, latent semantic analysis)?