Which Tablet Should I Buy?

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You're looking to buy an electronic tablet. There are a lot of choices available on the market, and you're not sure where to begin. Start with a rigorous purchasing process consisting of the following seven steps:

1) Assess your needs

The following questions will help you determine your needs. These are suggestions. You can add others based on your personal situation.

- Why do you need a tablet? Would a computer also meet these needs?
- Is this a need or a want? Why?
- How will you use the tablet? For school? To watch videos? Play games? Take pictures? Listen to music? Watch movies?
- Do you intend to use a tablet for word-processing purposes?
- Will you have to carry your tablet around?
- Will you be using it to read?
- Do you need an Internet package?
- Do you intend to download applications?
- What price can you afford?
- Do you plan to buy an additional (extended) warranty for your tablet?
- Etc.

2) Design a comparison table based on your needs

Along with your team members, design your own comparison table. You will use it to gather information so you can compare the available options for your tablet purchase. The points included in the table depend on your needs, especially the points concerning product features.

Psst! Make sure your comparison table includes criteria for warranties as well as the store's exchange and return policies.

3) Determine the various options available to you

A quick search of the Internet, a talk with your friends, or a visit to a store is enough to give you an idea of the options you can choose from. Include three options in your table for comparison once you have collected all the missing information.

4) Find out more about the different options

Fill out your table. To do so, you can consult organizations that provide consumers with information about their rights and recourses, resources that publish product reviews, public affairs programs, websites that post consumer product reviews, or buyers' guides. You can also consult the Internet (after checking site credibility), friends and family, or store websites.

5) Compare the options

Analyze your table based on the information you gathered and your needs.

6) Make your selection, then justify it

Support your choice by presenting the reasons why you prefer it to the other options or by explaining the drawbacks to the other options.

7) Assess your decision

In real life, after using the tablet (or any other product you purchase), it is important to assess whether you are satisfied with it, i.e., whether it meets your needs and expectations or, on the contrary, whether you are dissatisfied.

Depending on the reason for your dissatisfaction (and the product in question), you may wish to take consumer action such as requesting an exchange, a refund or a repair. The possibilities depend on the law and store policy, which is why you should find out about these aspects before buying.

To wrap up this scenario, you can compare your choice with that of another team:

- What tablet did that team choose?
- Why?
- What needs had to be met?
- What were the analysis criteria?
- Where was the information sourced?
- Etc.

Comparison Table

Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3