Back-to-School Supply Chain Assignment

The supply chain consists of all the internal and external partners who participate in bringing a product or service to market. It begins with the raw materials or supplies and ends with the final consumer making use of the product or service. The Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP) defines supply chain management as the planning and administration of all the activities needed to source and purchase, convert, and manage all logistics management activities.

A typical supply chain looks like this:

Figure 6.1.1

According to **this blog post by the National Retail Federation**, while inflation is at the top of shoppers' minds, back-to-school spending is expected to exceed pre-pandemic levels.

PART 1

Think about the start of your semester in college versus the start of your school year in high school.

What were the top 3 things you purchased for back-to-school in high school?

1.

2.

3.

What were the top 3 things you purchased for back-to-school your freshman year of college?

    1.

    2.

    3.

What stands out to you about the products you purchased for high school vs college?

As prices continue to rise, how do you see this affecting your purchases and the timing of your purchases next semester or the next school year?

PART 2

Pick one of the products you purchased for college this year and build the supply chain for that product.

Product:

Supply Chain (use figure 6.1.1 for reference):

According to Day, Shoemaker, and Todd, as quoted in **Introduction to Business: Best Practices & Emerging Trends**, supply chain disruptions can occur at any time. Here are the seven disruptive areas in supply chain:

Digital Transformation

Remote working

3D printing

AI/data analytics

Smart factories

Pushback on Globalization

Trade conflicts

Localization

Intellectual property

Cost of Core Technologies

Communications

Storage

Processing

Supplier Infrastructure

Vulnerable points

Shortages

Scarcity

Climate Change and Sustainability

Weather

Flooding

Transparency

Disruptive Events

Social unrest

Pandemics

Financial waves

Cyber attacks

Consumers/ Channels

Price sensitivity

Delay tolerance

Need for information

Customization and variety

For the product you selected to build your supply chain, identify the top three disruptions you anticipate encountering in the near future and explain how each disruption could affect your product.