**Initial Report**

 You are going to be researching and learning about three topics. What three topics might they be? While your three topic choices are up to you, each topic must begin with the letter of one of your initials. Huh? For example, if I were writing this report, I would have to choose one topic that began with the letter “C”, one that began with the letter “E”, and one that began with the letter “L”.

**Step One:** Select three topics. (Be sure to select topics that are of interest to you since you will be spending time researching and writing about them.)

**Step Two:** Using at least two resources (a book, encyclopedia, Internet) gather information about your topics. I would recommend researching one topic completely, researching the second topic completely, and finally researching your third topic. Be organized and use note cards or some other system to record your notes.

**Step Three:** Now the hard part begins. (At least when I write!) You need to reread your notes, organize your thoughts and information, pick a slant, and begin writing an essay for each topic. Tackle one topic at a time. Though I know no one would ever dream otherwise, I will put it on record that you **must have an opener**. In your first paragraph be sure to include a thesis statement (*what about the subject you want to communicate to your reader*).

 Each essay should be written in one of the text patterns we have been working on in class. You can only use a text pattern once. (In other words, all of your essays cannot be “sequential order”. Bummer, I know.) Pick one that makes sense for your topic!

· Sequential Order

· Compare/Contrast

· Problem/Solution

· Cause/Effect

· Opinion/Argumentative

FYI: You will receive a writing content grade (focus/organization, information/support) and a writing mechanics grade (grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling) for your report.

**HAVE FUN! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE ASK THEM!**