1. Brain storm the topic:
   a. Take inventory of topics you have researched
   b. Arrange the items in a logical fashion (chronological, or Scientific order)
   c. Evaluate the significance and relevance of each item to the assay.
   d. Narrow the number of items to include
   e. Outline your assay.

Outline should help you organize your information and point out areas of work that you need. Mark areas of work which should be omitted or areas where more research is needed. Provide a logical time-line to complete the assignment.

2. Outline

**Title**: Cogent description of the topic, which clearly describes the assay content,

**Author, and affiliation**: Author’s name (you) and affiliation (Chem 3170/UCONN)

**Abstract**: Short, but clear description of the important points discussed in the assay (200 words).

**Introduction**: Opening statement (topic to be covered and its importance). Items that will be covered about the topic and includes what the reader may expect in the subsequent pages.

**Background**: (historical or chronological backgrounds are good examples). An assay on Raman spectroscopy may start with how Raman effect was discovered, and then how it is improved over the decades, while the main body of the text might discuss current status of Raman spectroscopy.

**Results and Discussion**: The main assay on the chosen topic with a detailed breakdown of topics to be covered.

**Conclusions**: Giving logical arguments, evaluate the merits and limitations of important items, Draw conclusions based on facts discussed in the assay. Speculate future developments or important problems in the area that are not yet solved.

**Assignment**: Prepare an outline of your topic, which is due the next class.