First Formal Essay
Descriptive Analysis (800 – 1,000 words, MLA format, typed)

Choose one of the following technologies and 1) describe it for an audience who is not very familiar with it, and 2) explain the advantages and disadvantages of the technology.

Notice that this assignment asks for two kinds of writing: **description** gives you practice with precision: finding the precise words and details to give your reader a complete “picture”; and **analysis** gives you practice in critical thinking, examining and evaluating the elements of a topic. In this case, your explanation of advantages and disadvantages will be analysis.
As you write about advantages and disadvantages, reflect thoughtfully on whether the advantages of this technology are really worth the disadvantages. This reflection could help you to formulate a THESIS.

Choose ONE:

- Automobiles
- Cell Phones
- Facebook or Twitter

Brainstorming
In class, we will brainstorm together on possible topics and strategies for writing your paper. Use the space below to take notes.