Welcome to Scientific Research! The summer is a great time for reflection and contemplation. As such, we want you to spend some time thinking about topics that have been especially interesting to you over the course of your high school science career.

Identify THREE major topic areas that you might want to consider studying further. A topic could be something such as “genetics,” or “ecology,” or “clean energy,” but it is also fine if your topics are more specific. (Think of topics that might basically correspond to a textbook chapter.) For each topic you identify, complete the following tasks:

1. Review the topic. You can use class notes, a textbook (if you have one), and/or online resources. Jot down notes, insights, and questions that you have. (And make sure you keep track of your sources!)

2. Write a short (1-2 paragraph) reflection about why this topic is interesting to you. What do you want to know more about? Do you have any ideas for projects that might relate to this topic?

3. Identify 2 labs (at universities or large research institutions) that conduct research that relates to the topic. For each lab, write down:
   a. The institution
   b. A contact person in that lab (ideally a professor, supervisor, or principal investigator)
   c. A short (1 paragraph) summary of the kinds of work they do. Pay particular attention to the equipment and/or organisms that they use.

Please remember that you are not committed to any of the topics you explore over the summer; you will have ample opportunity for further exploration, and for changing your mind, once we start school in September. This exercise will act as a springboard for brainstorming, and will give T. Leslie and T. Mariska a sense of your interests and passions.