1) Please choose eight commonly used intermediate to advanced etude books for the viola and give an overview of both the techniques addressed in each and the level of technical difficulty. In each book, choose two contrasting etudes that you consider good representatives of the book and discuss in more detail. (8-10 pages)*

*For this project, you may want to use ILL, and you are also welcome to borrow etude books from me if you have trouble finding materials.

2) A 12-year-old student (we’ll call him Kevin) has come to you that has been playing the violin for two years, and is now interested in switching to the viola. His playing level is roughly Suzuki book II.

A. In an essay not less than 500 words, address how you would help this student with the set-up adjustment from violin to viola, addressing the issues (but not limited to!) posture, intonation, vibrato, bow technique, and bow hold. Be sure to cite at least three articles in this portion of the project, and provide a bibliography of your resources.

B. Provide a two-year outline of study over four semesters, including both etudes and repertoire. You are welcome to use a series such as Suzuki or Solos for Young Violists, but do not limit yourself to just one source of material for repertoire. This section may be in annotated outline form, but be sure that you explain why you chose each piece, and what new challenges each piece holds for your student.

3) The viola has really come into its own in the first half of the 20th century; please choose three violists that have had a dramatic impact on the literature and pedagogy in this period, and give a brief presentation about them in studio class. (between 10 and 15 minutes) You can include some basic biographical information, but please focus on their specific contributions to the viola world! Please plan on presenting this topic sometime in March.

With the exception of the presentation, you may do these projects in any order you like, and please feel free to bring a rough draft of any of these for me to look over at any time. I will simply give you three dates, and you can present them to me in any order:
Project deadlines:
March 8
April 5
May 5