Patent Search Project

1.) Select a major chemical product or intermediate, or a closely related group of products (not consumer products). Select patents that are focused on chemical reactions, processes, or catalysts, rather than those describing primarily improvements in reactor design or mechanical devices.

2.) Find at least three patents issued to three different companies within the last 20 years for producing this product.

3.) Compare and analyze the patents, providing a discussion of both differences and similarities among the patents for such factors as:
   a.) Chemical reaction and process used to produce the product or intermediate
   b.) Catalyst(s) used
   c.) Comparative reaction conditions
   d.) Activities, selectivities, by-products
   e.) Environmental effects, if any
   f.) Claimed improvements over prior art

4.) The narrative portion of the paper should be limited to no more than eight double-spaced pages, not including Figures and Tables, if any.

5.) Attach a copy of each of the patents discussed.

6.) Project is due no later than **Friday, February 24.**