***Directions for stock market assignment***

* ***Much of this assignment will require self-learning and self-teaching. No stress!***
* ***You may work in groups – there is no right or wrong way and this is a learning experience, but it requires full engagement. Read this carefully a few times.***
* ***Please sign up at*** [***www.howthemarketworks.com***](http://www.howthemarketworks.com) ***CONTEST NAME: CCSFTRADERS (or see link below)***
* ***Write-up (printed and handed-in by you and in-person) is due: MWF 5/10 ; Tu/Th 5/11; Tue Eve 5/9***
* ***Important: To participate, you must enroll in the contest no later than midnight on Friday, March 17. Purchase five stocks by midnight on March 31.***
* ***The link to register for the contest is:*** <http://www.howthemarketworks.com/register/85186>

*There will be no late assignments accepted. This will be counted as one-third of your homework grade or about 7%. In order to get credit, you must register under your last name, first name AND under the contest name of CCSFTRADERS so that I can record your grade.* Go to [www.howthemarketworks.com](http://www.howthemarketworks.com/) website to learn more about virtual (online) investing and the stock market. It will not cost you anything, and it is completely free.

CLICK ON “SIGN UP” which allows you to register (it’s free) using your first name and last name. Do not pay or give any credit card information. Do not register with a broker. BE SURE TO REMEMBER YOUR USERNAME AND PASSWORD. I can’t help you out if you forget. This is FREE.

You will begin with $100,000 *virtual* cash (spend the whole amount), and if you’re not sure where to begin, you may take some online tutorials to get started in the stock market game. **You will not be graded on your performance (it’s hard to gain in such a short period of time), but you will be graded on your 1,000 word write-up -- see below of what to include in your write-up.**

The website has a stock simulator which performs like a real online brokerage, but using virtual (fake, not real) money. Read the “Getting Started” page for FAQs, click on “stock game”

1. Click on “Join a Contest”
2. Click on “Find a Contest” and “Classrooms and Private Groups” CONTEST NAME: CCSFTRADERS
3. Important Dates:
	1. Register on www.howthemarketworks.com by midnight on **Friday, 3/17**
	2. Don’t forget your username and password
	3. Spend the entire $100,000 and purchase five (or more) stocks by **midnight on Friday, 3/31.**
		1. If you’re in the MWF class, **due date is 5/10/17**
		2. Tu/Th 1:10 PM class due date is **Thursday, 5/11/17**
		3. Tues Eve class due date is Tuesday, **5/9/17**

***\*CRUCIAL AND IMPORTANT: If you do not sign up by Friday, 3/17, you will not be able to complete the assignment! No exceptions will be made. Also, please remember your login information.***

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| What to include in your write-up:(and please feel free to add whatever else you’d like)Include a **1,000 word** double spaced report with the following (and more of your own) topics. Please be sure to use this as a checklist/rubric. * What you learned from this assignment and any emotions evoked.
* How you decided to purchase each stock (discuss your reasons for purchasing each stock)
* The performance of each stock pick during the time (4/1 to 5/9) of this assignment and over the previous year.
* Impact of the company’s recent performance on its stock price and performance
* Discuss all events which contributed to the stock’s performance and price.
* Opening price and closing price for each stock. Use March 31 as the opening price, and the day before your write up is due closing price date.
* You may include charts and graphs as visuals. Feel free to do so. No need to print in color.
* Please discuss any other events which occurred at each company during the time you participated in this assignment. Did these events have a significant, if any, impact? Discuss.
* Results of your overall portfolio’s value (all stocks or investments) over the time period – what was your expectation?
* Information about your trades, buys and/or sales (I will be able to see these), but please discuss your rationale (aside from the fact that it is required for the assignment)
* IMPORTANT: To earn an A on this assignment, in addition to a comprehensive write-up and active trading, *please do at least a minimum of 3 transactions or trades each week*. For full credit, stay active (see charts below for examples). DO NOT BUY AND DO NOTHING UNTIL THE DUE DATE.
* While the site [www.howthemarketworks.com](http://www.howthemarketworks.com) tracks by gains, you will not be graded on gains (or how much money you’ve made). *You will be graded on the level of detail and the quality of your write-up*, *along with your active participation requirements -- of buy, sells and trades (which I can view) during the assignment.*
* The rules aren’t hard and fast, so go ahead and have some fun while it won’t cost you a thing!
* Grading rubric: A comprehensive and complete write-up and required trade activity will earn 90-100 points.
* An incomplete write-up and required activity will earn a 70.
* An incomplete write up and incomplete activity will earn a 0.

T**he stock market can seem overwhelming to beginners, so here is a short list of how to get started in our market game. Click** [here](http://www.howthemarketworks.com/help/get-started-in-the-stock-market.php) **to access what is listed below. It will help to read the stock chapter as well (chapter 17). Please take the online course. You may know nothing about stocks. Please read** [this](http://www.howthemarketworks.com/education/stock-questions.php) **for more information. Click on menu items on left for more ideas.**1. Study some of our [Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.howthemarketworks.com/education/stock-questions.php).2. Read a good stock market [book](http://www.howthemarketworks.com/resources/stock-market-books.php). See [what affects stock prices](http://www.howthemarketworks.com/popular-topics/stock-price-factors.php). Take this [online course](http://www.investing101.net/PageTracker.aspx?TPath=D&ad=1110-56334-03&utm_source=Investing101&utm_medium=Web&utm_term=Finance&utm_campaign=Inv101+HTMW+Placements).3. Practice trading with our free [**Virtual Stock Exchange**](http://www.howthemarketworks.com/trading/).4. Research some stocks using [websites](http://stock-market-game.net) and newspapers. See [what stocks to buy](http://www.howthemarketworks.com/questions/what-stocks-to-buy.php).5. Buy stock in one or more companies that meet your criteria.6. Monitor your stocks and market conditions for the best time to sell.Keep in mind that most beginners lose some money the first few times they trade stocks. There is a learning curve involved, so hang in there. It is often said that you should trade using money that you can afford to lose. That helps to avoid bad decisions based on emotions. |
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 Grading Rubric for Stock Market Assignment Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Possible total points 100 (almost 7% of your grade)

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| Assignment | Points Earned/Comments | Point Value |
| Register on the site by 3/17 midnight and purchase five stocks by the Friday, 3/31 |  | 10 |
| Required activity (3x weekly for a total of a minimum of 15 transactions/trades)Begin trading 3x week on 4/3 for a total of a little over five weeks |  | 30 |
| Write-up to include the following:* What you learned from this assignment and any emotions evoked.
* How you decided to purchase each stock (discuss your reasons for purchasing each stock)
* The performance of each stock pick during the time of this assignment and over the previous year.
* Impact of the company’s recent performance on its stock price and performance
* Discuss all events which contributed to the stock’s performance and price.
* Opening price and closing price for each stock. Use March 31 as the opening price, and the day before your write up is due closing price date.
* You may include charts and graphs as visuals. Feel free to do so. No need to print in color.
* Please discuss any other events which occurred at each company during the time you participated in this assignment. Did these events have a significant, if any, impact? Discuss.
* Results of your overall value of your stocks over the short six-week (or so) time period – what was your expectation? Discuss.
* Information about your trades, buys and/or sales (I will be able to see these), but please discuss your rationale (aside from the fact that it is required for the assignment)
 |  | 60 |
| Grade |  | 100 |

How you’ll be graded:

You’ll be graded on your 1,000 word write-up (see checklist above), along with fulfilling the required trades and activities. Please avoid purchasing the minimum required stocks and then remaining inactive. If you do so, this is what your “final activity report of trading history” will look like – and you’ll earn a zero on the assignment. Here’s an example of such:



This student was *fully engaged* by participating and fulfilling the requirements of the assignment. By signing up right away and throughout the assignment, almost weekly, this student executing the minimum number of required trades and her write up reflected an active and engaged “virtual” investor. Certainly, there was more to talk about in the write-up (and the two activity reports surely do differ).



Below is another active investor.



Enjoy!!