Go to http://[www.finance.yahoo.com](http://www.finance.yahoo.com/)

Review the financial statements of a public company  Under "Get Quotes", type in the symbol of a public corporation. For instance, F is Ford Motor Co. Symbols can be looked up as well on Yahoo!. Then hit "Get Quotes". After you've gone to the company's webpage, take a look at the financial information on the company. Tell us about your thoughts as to how well the company is run from a financial standpoint. I suggest you consider corporations in more than one sectors of the economy.  For example, you might look at FPL (Florida Power and Light, GF (General Foods), CVS (CVS Pharmacy), etc.  The more diverse your companies, the more others can learn from your research.

Commentary should include an evaluation of sales, profits, cash flows, assets and other important financial information. Remember, you don't need to answer the questions as if you are a financial analyst; the purpose of this discussion is to help you get comfortable with the subject matter. Therefore, we want to become 'conversationally competent' not prepare for the CPA exam.

To help you with your analysis here are some of the things I would suggest be either number 1 or number 2:

1. Perform a time series analysis (must be at least 3 years; preferably 5) on either the Balance Sheet or the Income Statement.

2. Perform a cross sectional analysis of 2 similar companies using formulas discussed in Chapter 3. If you choose this option you might consider Liquidity Ratios, Performance Ratios, or Solvency Ratios. Be sure to come to a conclusion as to which company appears to be the best one to invest in or the best performer.

3. Regardless of which one you choose, be sure and come to a conclusion as to how the company or companies are doing.