Here are a few short answers to some of the questions listed below:

My special request is for clues (but not solutions) to help me get through this quickly:

1. Is the goal to read the file once and somehow reuse the data or are we reading in the file for each report section?
   1. The file should be read once, you would then work with the in-memory objects
2. am I appending to the file?
   1. Yes, most appended to the file as the functions get invoked.
3. do I need to close the file each time or at any time?
   1. Yes, close the file after each time you read or write so that other parts of your program can have access to that functionality
4. Any other clues about how the file read/write process should work?
   1. If it’s a CSV file, you have to determine what is going to be the delimiter
   2. The one area that students forget is closing the buffer stream and file stream.
   3. Sometimes it’s better to work with the objects in a List<>
   4. Try/catch block needed for statements that are connecting to external file
   5. Converting and casting the data as it’s read into program can sometimes be confusing for students.