

Lesson 34: How to Write Initials**PLL PART TWO****Language Rule**

What is an Initial? The first letter of a name is called an **initial**.

Punctuation Rule: Every initial must be a **capital letter** followed by a **period**.

Examples: **J. A. G.** for *James Abram Garfield*; **U. S.** for the *United States*.

1 PERSONAL SIGNATURE — YOUR OWN NAME & INITIALS

Write your full name, then write your initials with capital letters and periods:

My Full Name: _____

My Initials: _____

2 WRITTEN PRACTICE — WRITE THE INITIALS

Write the initials for each famous American poet or president on the line provided:

1. **Chester Alan Arthur**

Initials: _____

2. **William Cullen Bryant**

Initials: _____

3. **Ulysses Simpson Grant**

Initials: _____

4. **Oliver Wendell Holmes**

Initials: _____

5. **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

Initials: _____

3 SENTENCE PRACTICE — USING INITIALS IN STATEMENTS

Write two complete statements containing initials (such as a friend's initials, or **U. S.**):

6.

Line 2: _____

7.

Line 2: _____

Mechanics of Capitalization

Mastering Initials & Periods: An initial represents a shortened proper noun and must always be capitalized and followed by a terminal period. In 19th-century America, historical literacy was cultivated alongside grammar by featuring notable presidents and beloved Fireside Poets.

Key SECTION 2: INITIALS SOLUTIONS & HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1. Chester Alan Arthur → C. A. A.

Historical Note: 21st President of the United States.

2. William Cullen Bryant → W. C. B.

Historical Note: Renowned American romantic poet (author of *Thanatopsis*) and long-time newspaper editor.

3. Ulysses Simpson Grant → U. S. G.

Historical Note: Celebrated Union commanding general and 18th President of the United States.

4. Oliver Wendell Holmes → O. W. H.

Historical Note: Distinguished poet, physician, and author of *Old Ironsides*.

5. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow → H. W. L.

Historical Note: Beloved American poet of *Paul Revere's Ride* and *The Song of Hiawatha*.

Model SECTION 3: EXEMPLAR STUDENT COMPOSITIONS

- *Exemplar 1:* The brave sailors proudly raised the flag of the **U. S.** Navy upon the mast.
- *Exemplar 2:* We read a beautiful poem written by **H. W. L.** during our reading hour.
- *Exemplar 3:* My best friend wrote his initials, **R. E. M.**, on the corner of his drawing slate.

Evaluation Focus	Exemplary (Proficient)	Developing (Needs Support)
Initial Capitalization & Periods	All initials are capitalized; each letter is immediately followed by a clear, distinct period (e.g. C. A. A.).	Uses lowercase letters or omits periods (writes "CAA" or "c.a.a").
Letter Selection Accuracy	Correctly extracts first letters for all 5 historical figures and personal name.	Extracts wrong letters or misses middle initials.
Sentence Construction & Penmanship	Two complete sentences with correct grammar, capitalization, and neat handwriting on baselines.	Incomplete sentence fragments; untidy spacing between initials.