Creating a personal pattern

* Brainstorm: Create a list of all the things that are most important to you in your life.
* Sketch: What could be a symbol that represents each of those things? Next to each word, draw a symbol to represent it.
* Organize: How can you turn those symbols into an interesting pattern. Consider a variety of sizes, borders, all-over print, stripes, checkerboard, spirals, etc. Sketch at least three ideas before you come up with your concept.
* Scale: Now consider the size of your block to be repeated. Trace that dimension on your paper and transfer your design idea on the paper.
* Trace: Using tracing paper, copy the design. If you use words, you will flip the paper before transferring.
* Transfer: Tape the foam block to the table, tape the tracing paper over it and draw over the design, it will make an impression in the foam. The tracing paper will tear, that’s okay. Remove the paper and go over your lines again so they are a little deeper. ( a lot of texture and pattern is much better than a simple line drawing).
* Test: You are now ready to do a test print on a scrap sheet of paper. Practice printing the design the way you want to see it finished.
* Analyze: Does the pattern on your block need refining? If so wash it off and draw some more. Is your pattern successful? Does it have interest? Perhaps you want to consider flipping it in different direction? Perhaps you can do a portion (checkerboard, every other square) with a simple design, and alternate with a second more complex design? Alternate colors?
* Print: Do your final print.