

Generating Writing: Brainstorming for an Essay

Complete each of the following to help you flesh out your ideas. Have all of your reading notes and free-writes in front of you as you respond to these questions. Hopefully upon completing this handout you will have a sense of what you want to write about and why.

1. The essay prompt that interests me most is...
 2. Here's why I find this topic interesting:
 3. One experience that relates to this topic that I have had in my life (or someone close to me has had in her/his life) is...
 4. This experience was important because...
 5. One reading that addresses this topic is...
 6. One interesting idea or point that this reading makes (and that I could discuss in my paper) is...
 7. This idea or point is interesting because...
 8. I agree/disagree/kind of agree (circle one) with this idea/point/argument because...
 9. If I had to sum up my ARGUMENT about this topic in one or two sentences, I would say...
 10. The reasons I have for making this argument (and that I can develop as body paragraphs in my essay) are:
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
- (No limit or number or reasons required!)
11. Here is my central claim that includes the reasons I am making this argument: [Hint: Try using a statement like, "I think _____ about [*my topic*] because [*list reasons*]."]
 12. I still have questions about...