

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Write your **thesis statement**, or the controversial opinion you will argue in your essay.

**Thesis Statement:**

2. List as much **evidence** (statistics, specific examples, or quotes) as you can to support your thesis.

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3. Look over the pieces of evidence you've listed. Do they fall into any major categories? Organize your evidence so that similar pieces are together.

**Evidence:**

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**Evidence:**

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**Evidence:**

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4. For each category, ask yourself: "Together, what do these pieces of evidence show?" Sum up the idea in a single sentence. These will be your **claims** to support your thesis.

**Claim:**

**Claim:**

**Claim:**