1. Write down any thoughts you have about the prompt or question. You don't need to answer the question yet. Write whatever comes to mind first.



2. Use your notes to decide your opinion on the topic. Your opinion will form your thesis. (Remember, a debatable opinion has reasonable evidence both for and against it!)



**3.** List as many **claims** as you can that support your thesis.



**4.** Put a star (☆ or \*) next to your three strongest **claims**. These will be your **topic sentences**.