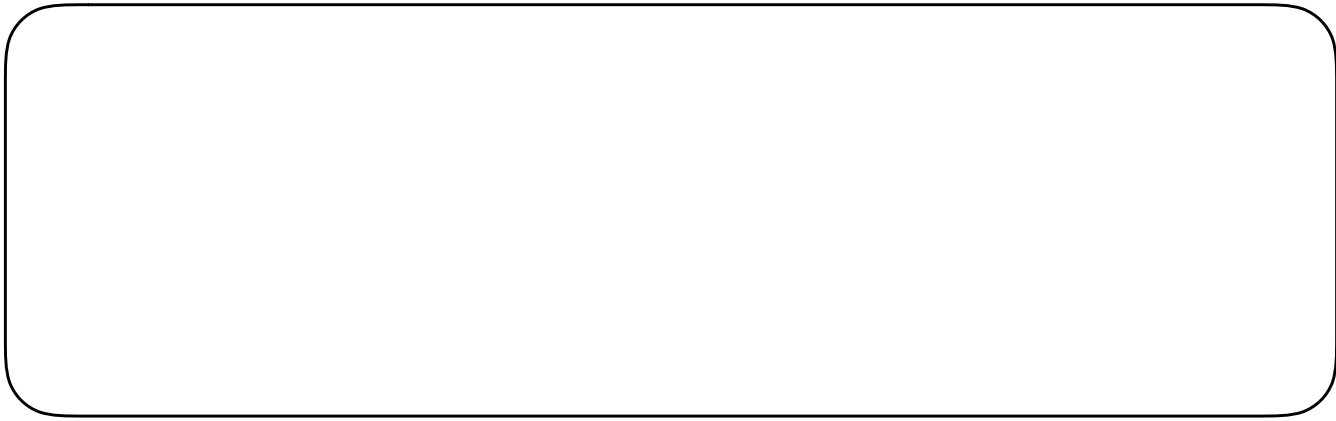


Name _____

Date _____

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 on your **thesis statement**—or central idea—for your essay. Your central idea is a thoughtful and interesting point that you want readers to understand about your topic. Sum up this idea in one sentence.



3. List as many **supporting ideas** as you can that support your central idea.



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