

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your Essay Topic

1. Circle which your essay will focus on:      a. the **causes** of your topic      b. the **effects** of your topic
2. In the box below, list as many causes or effects of your topic as you can think of or find in your research. If your idea is from a source, be sure to note that source so you'll be able to find it easily when you look for evidence!

Cause or Effect	Source (e.g. website or book title and page number)

3. Put a star (☆ or \*) next to the three causes or effects that would be most interesting to explain in your essay. Each of your body paragraphs will focus on one of these.
4. Decide the best order for your body paragraphs. For example, consider putting the causes or effects in the order they happen(ed) or in order of importance.

Body Paragraph 1 (Cause or Effect 1):

Body Paragraph 2 (Cause or Effect 2):

Body Paragraph 3 (Cause or Effect 3):

5. What interesting or thoughtful point do you want readers to understand about the three causes or effects you've listed above? Sum up that point in one sentence as your essay's **thesis statement**, or central idea.

Thesis Statement