

Name _____

Date _____

1. Analyze the prompt to make sure you understand the requirements of your task.

Prompt:

- Circle or add ** around **key verbs**. (For example, “explain,” “analyze,” or “describe.”)
- Underline or add ## around **the part of the text** the prompt asks you to write about. (For example, does it ask about a specific character or event, or does it ask about the author’s word choice?)

2. Come up with an idea for your thesis.

- In the column on the left, write down all of the ideas that first come to mind when you think about the prompt.
- Find the parts of the text that gave you these ideas, and note these in the column on the right.

What ideas do I have in response to the prompt?

What moments, words, or details from the text gave me these ideas?

- Use your notes from the table above to write your **thesis**. Ask yourself: “Which idea in response to the prompt is best supported by the text?” In one sentence, sum up this interpretation as your thesis.

Thesis

3. Double-check that your thesis responds to the prompt. Does your thesis meet all of the requirements that you identified in step #1?

- If not, look back through your ideas to come up with another thesis.
- If yes, you are ready to brainstorm supporting ideas!