1. Write the **opinion** you will argue in your essay in a single sentence.

**Thesis Statement:** 

2. List as much evidence (facts, 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 **reasons** to support your thesis.

Reason:

Reason:

Reason: