

## Essay Topic Brainstorm

Write your responses to the following questions on a separate sheet of lined paper. As with all exercises, be sure to number each answer, double space, not doodle, use complete sentences (unless a list or diagram), write legibly, not write in the margins, and complete your work in-class (or during homework help or study hall). Spelling is not marked. This exercise will be reflected in the “Neat and Complete” mark. Follow the format and complete the exercise for a 100% mark.

1. List ten topics or issues that matter to you and that you know enough about to have an informed opinion or theory.
2. Choose the three most interesting and useful (in terms of useful for writing a paper) of the topics or issues listed above. List these.
3. For each of the top three, answer the following questions:
  - a. Why is this interesting to you? (If cannot answer with a complex/complete answer, then it’s likely not a good topic for the assignment. Choose another.)
  - b. What is one **how question** related to the topic or issue?
  - c. What is one **why question** related to the topic or issue?
4. Look at your six Focusing Questions. Choose two. For each of these two, write a 5-minute speed write (total of ten minutes) that starts (attempts) to the answer the question. (If you cannot do this, then you should choose another topic, issue, or focusing question).