Discovering Ideas through Exploring a Problem
(Useful for developing ideas for an argumentative essay)

First, identify a critical issue, problem, or conflict in your field. Briefly outline the nature of the controversy.

Were you brought up to have an opinion on this controversy? What opinion did your family or community have on this controversy? Were there points of disagreement?

Who is affected by this problem or conflict?

Does this problem or conflict have implications for a law or policy?

Why is this problem important?

Briefly summarize two opposing viewpoints on this problem or conflict.

If you were to write about this problem or conflict, what audience would you address? Who would be interested in your ideas?