Points-To-Make List

Brainstorming is usually just the first step in generating an interesting and well-argued essay. Before you begin to write your essay, spend some time making a list of your ideas and then review them to decide which ones make the best thesis for your argument.

1. **Write down the prompt for the assignment.**

2. **Create a preliminary list.** Write down all the ideas or opinions that the prompt makes you think about. Don’t worry for now if you have a lot of different ideas. Just make a list of points and evidence (facts, examples, and quotes) that you’d like to include in your essay.

3. **Examine, narrow and reorder your list.** Your list may include many different kinds of ideas. That’s OK. Sometimes you need to work with the ideas for a while before you finally arrive at what you “really want to say.” Review your list, decide which points you like best, and put check marks (✓) by them.

4. **Write a thesis statement.** Look over your list and try to put your best points together into a statement that responds most directly to the assignment prompt.