

Thesis Development Guide Sheet

Main Ideas and Concrete Details

(final answers only – use the back of this page for brainstorming)

This pre-writing represents the brainstorming and outlining expected for any essay written, ever. Select a topic from the list and develop a thesis. For the thesis, develop three main ideas and three concrete details for each to complete the brain storming.

A **thesis is defined as** the main idea of the entire essay plus an opinion to give a direction for the main idea.

Thesis: _____

The Main Ideas' purpose is to offer subtopics supporting the thesis statement. Main ideas will serve as the topic sentence with an opinion added.

Concrete details offer evidence or support for the main idea and help prove the thesis statement is true; these can be facts, evidence, reasons, quotes, etc.

Main Idea #1 _____

Concrete Detail #1 _____

Concrete Detail #2 _____

Concrete Detail #3 _____

Main Idea #2 _____

Concrete Detail #1 _____

Concrete Detail #2 _____

Concrete Detail #3 _____

Main Idea #3 _____

Concrete Detail #1 _____

Concrete Detail #2 _____

Concrete Detail #3 _____

Possible Topics for Thesis Development

Select a topic prompting the best main ideas and concrete details, not necessarily the one which seems most interesting.

1. vacation
2. school
3. Fall break
4. lake
5. accident
6. spring break
7. wedding

NARROW this topic into a thesis' main idea and add an opinion. THEN, break that down into three sub main ideas where each main idea will have three concrete details to support.

**Due to time constraints writing an anchor paper, we do not brainstorm and outline our commentary or closing sentence for body paragraphs. We are expected to come up with those if we have the concrete details. If an essay is assigned outside of class, outlining at least the commentary is suggested.*