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| Before writing your paper, think about the issue | What is the purpose of my paper? |
| you want to address. Be sure that the paper carries | What is the argument of my paper? |
| a strong point and purpose, particularly one that | What is the problem that is posed? |
| your reader will easily understand | What question or issue am I trying to address? |
| Now that you have a topic and an issue, consider | What is my point of view? |
| your available resources. In addition to your own | What are some of my ideas that reach beyond the |
| thinking, there are several articles and other | actual plot of the story or issue? |
| sources of information to help you analyze your | What is the purpose of my writing about this issue? |
| ideas. Consider specific examples and events that | Why is it important? |
| help to illustrate your point. | |

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| Choose specific examples, quotes, or statistics | Why is this statement important? |
| from the your resources. Remember to incorporate | What is it saying about my subject matter? |
| your own thinking and conclusion to stand as the | Why did I include it in my paper? |
| main argument behind your writing. | How does it support my argument? |
| NEVER assume that your cleverly chosen | How is this example/source significant to my paper? |
| examples/sources will speak for themselves. ALL | Can I expand on it or explain it in more depth? |
| examples need your introduction and follow-up | Do ALL my sources have well-developed |
| commentary. | commentary? |
| | Do I introduce ALL my sources so my reader will |
| | know where they come from? |
| Before finishing your rough draft, check the | Have I researched and considered other points of view |
| viewpoint of your argument. Make sure you | and identified their strengths and weaknesses? |
| acknowledge the opposing sides of your argument | How are my assumptions shaping my point of view? |
| and then identify their weaknesses to further | Should I remedy or better justify those assumptions? |
| support your point. | |