**First Step In Responding In Writing To A Prompt or an Assignment**

1. ***Identifying what is being asked of you:*** Determine exactly what the question is asking – circle the verbs and then identify specific instructions or sources. Analyze the prompt thoroughly so that you know exactly what the question is asking.
2. ***Reviewing your sources and gathering your ideas:*** Make a chart or outline that identifies all sources, the main message or idea, and several possible pieces of evidence that could be used to support those ideas/messages. Your chart might look something like this:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source** | **Big Idea(s)** | **Evidence** |
| Doing School: Kevin |  |  |
| Doing School: Eve |  |  |
| Stand and Deliver; |  |  |
| Dead Poets Society; |  |  |
| Mr. Holland’s Opus |  |  |
| Pay it Forward; |  |  |
| Glee; |  |  |
| Class discussions |  |  |

1. ***Formulating a Thesis:*** Review your prompt again and formulate several theses that you could use to answer the prompt. Identify a minimum of 3. Pushing yourself to think beyond your first thought will force your brain to dig deeper and usually results in a thesis that allows for more depth in your response.
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. ***Selecting the best thesis:*** Now, go back and review your sources and your evidence. Which of your theses can best be supported by the evidence you have? Are you able to pull from a variety of sources to support your argument? Does your thesis allow you to develop a discussion with depth and complexity that will make your reader think? Circle the thesis you will use.
3. ***Thinking it all the way through:*** Once you have determined your thesis, identify the arguments and/or big ideas you stated in your thesis. List those and identify a minimum of 3 sources from your source list that would support those ideas/arguments. Explain clearly how your evidence supports your specific argument or your thesis as a whole. Be sure to you have addressed all requirements stated in the prompt.

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| Thesis: | | |
| Argument/  Big Idea | Source /  Evidence | Explanation |
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