

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Essay Prewriting Sheet

1. What topic will your essay be about? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Write down a definition of your topic (either your own or from the dictionary):
3. Write down your personal feelings or opinion about your topic. Is it good? bad? useful? important? easy? difficult? common? rare? What do you want to say about it? **Brainstorm** some ideas:
4. Think of 1-2 real-life stories that illustrate your topic and your feelings. For example, if you're writing about the dangers of anger, you could tell about a time when you (or someone) got angry and lost a friendship or something else important. This should be a true story from your life.
5. Look up a quote related to your topic. Copy that quote and its author. You can have more than one.
6. Think about other examples that illustrate your topic (from books, short stories, poems, movies, etc.). Add them:
7. What's your final conclusion about your topic?
8. What is an interesting way to start this essay? Write a first sentence below:

*On a piece of loose leaf, take these ideas and group them in an order that seems right to you.*