

Turning Point Essay --- Getting Started

Prepare the Following A – F on notebook paper

A. Topic --- turning point

B. Brainstorm list of all turning points, big and small, significant and silly; do this on a sheet of notebook paper.

After brainstorming, pick one turning point that has some substance and meaning to you, and move to step C.

C. Rough draft thesis statement (write it on line below)

Next, brainstorm a second list that considers ways you were changed as a result of the turning point; this brainstorming list is extremely important . . . it could end up saving you much time in the drafting and revising stage, and be the difference between a strong paper and a weak one. Do this list on the same sheet of notebook paper you already started using for B.

D. Group the changes you came up in your second list into three categories, representing three paragraphs

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

E. Come up with a revised thesis statement

F. On separate notebook paper, freewrite for two minutes on each of the categories you listed for D. This is a total of six minutes of freewriting. This might easily fill more than a full page of notebook paper.

Now, you're ready to begin drafting.