

Brainstorming Ideas

A **mind map** is a way to visually represent how ideas are connected. Creating a mind map can be a very helpful tool when brainstorming for your essay.

For this exercise, create your own mind map on a separate sheet of paper. Write your essay question in the center of the page. Write down everything you can think of to answer each question:

- What are your initial responses to the question?
- What are your opinions about the question or topic?
- What do you already know about the topic?

You can use a different shape for answers to each question if you would like. Connect related ideas with lines, arrows, etc. When completed, your mind map might look something like this:

