How To Outline An Essay
Step 1: Brainstorming

- Brainstorming is a great way to help you figure out your claim and what will support it!
- Claim: what you are trying to explain or prove in your essay
- Your *main* goal in brainstorming: figure out what pieces of evidence will guide your paper
- Try:
  - Jotting down what inspires you about your topic on a piece of paper
  - Write down all the “reasons” that you could use to prove your claim
- The final step in Brainstorming is to choose what works best for your claim
Step 2: Outlining Your Thesis

- 3 Step modifiable thesis outline
  - Your thesis can be outlined like this: “Blank1 is blank2 because of blank3, blank4, and blank5”
- This is where the brainstorming comes in handy y’all!
- Blank 1 is your topic
  - “Cookie Dough Ice cream is blank2 because of blank3, blank4, and blank5”
- Blank 2 is what you are trying to prove about your topic (your opinion or the side you are taking)
  - “Cookie Dough Ice cream is the best flavor of ice cream because of blank3, blank4, and blank5”
- Blanks 3, 4, and 5 are the reasons that you brainstormed (choose your favorites)
  - “Cookie Dough Ice cream is the best flavor of ice cream because it has cookie dough as an extra bonus to the actual ice cream, a warm vanilla flavor, a nostalgic childhood feel.”
Step 3: Paragraph Organization

- Organize the claims and evidence you will use to work towards your essays main point
- Decide how many paragraphs you want and then organize that way
- Write it out so that when it comes to actually doing your paper you don’t have to waste time looking
- Paragraph 1:
  - Claim of the paragraph
  - Evidence
  - Evidence