

# Planning an Essay

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Before you write anything long, decide what you are actually claiming. Everything else hangs off that.*

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Topic                              |  |
| What I claim<br>(the thesis)       |  |
| Reason 1 + evidence                |  |
| Reason 2 + evidence                |  |
| Reason 3 + evidence                |  |
| What I want the<br>reader to think |  |

A thesis is not a topic. "Recycling" is a topic. "Our school should compost as well as recycle" is a thesis — somebody could disagree with it.

*Write your opening paragraph.*