Creating an Essay Outline

**Question:** Was Louis Riel a Hero or a Traitor?

**Step 1:**

* get informed: gather facts / evidence about your topic to help you decide what to argue (on both sides)

(see the evidence sheet on back)

**Step 2:**

* Make a decision: What are you going to argue? Write this down in a single, confident sentence.

**Thesis Statement:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Step 3:**

* Look at the facts you gathered. What are general topics you can organize your facts into? What are your body paragraph topics?

**Evidence sheet**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hero** | **Traitor** |
|  |  |

**Step 4:**

* Prioritize your topics – what order will you write them in? **Number the topics.**

**Step 5:**

* Organize your facts / evidence: go through all the facts and number tem to match the topic.

(Organize your facts onto the evidence organizer chart on back)

**Step 6:**

Do you need more information? Do you need to do more research / fact finding on any paragraph topic?

**Step 7:**

* Write your argument in proper paragraphs.
  + Start with an introduction, where you introduce your topic and state the thesis.
  + Write each of your topic (body ) paragraphs including a topic sentence and all your facts, being careful to explain each fact
  + Write a conclusion paragraph that summarizes your agreement

**Step 8:**

Edit – self edit, peer edit

Did I make a good argument? Do I have enough facts? Did I explain the facts well? Is my argument well –written?

**Fact organizer chart for body paragraphs**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | 2. |
|  |  |
| 3. | 4. |
|  |  |