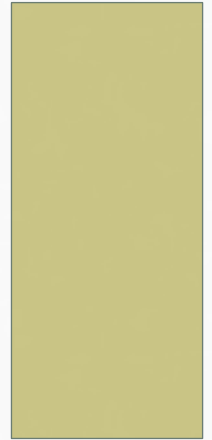


# PREPARING FOR THE GHSWT

DECONSTRUCTING A PROMPT, BRAINSTORMING,  
AND INTRODUCTION/THESIS



# Deconstructing a Prompt

*(constructing means to build)*

**Deconstructing means to take apart**

**To deconstruct a prompt:**

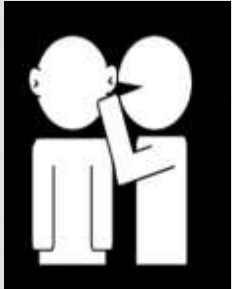
- 1. Read it**
- 2. Take it apart**
- 3. Understand what you need to do**
- 4. Determine how to respond to the prompt correctly**





# Identifying Key Parts of a Written Prompt

## Hints

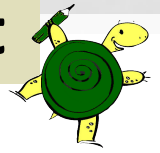


**Does the prompt give you suggestions to get started?**




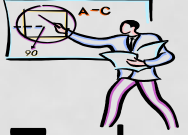

- Pay careful attention to the wording of the prompt.
- Look for suggestions in the prompt to get you started (ideas to think about, verbs that tell you what to do).
- Use key words from the prompt to construct your thesis statement.



# Identifying Key Parts of a Written Prompt




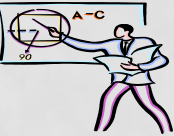



You can use the word RAFTS to help you remember how to deconstruct a prompt.

 <p><u>R</u>ole</p>	<p><b>What role do you take as the writer?</b> (student, citizen, expert)</p>
 <p><u>A</u>udience</p>	<p><b>Who is your audience?</b> (class, parent, teacher, friend)</p>
 <p><u>F</u>ormat</p>	<p><b>What kind of response are you writing? How long does it have to be?</b> (persuasive, descriptive, narrative, essay, letter, speech)</p>
 <p><u>T</u>ask</p>	<p><b>What are the verbs in the prompt asking you to do? Are there any specific directions?</b> (advise your classmate, justify your opinion, explain why...)</p>
 <p><u>S</u>trong key words</p>	<p><b>What are the key words that you need to include in your response?</b> <i>Hint: Use these words to construct your thesis statement.</i></p>

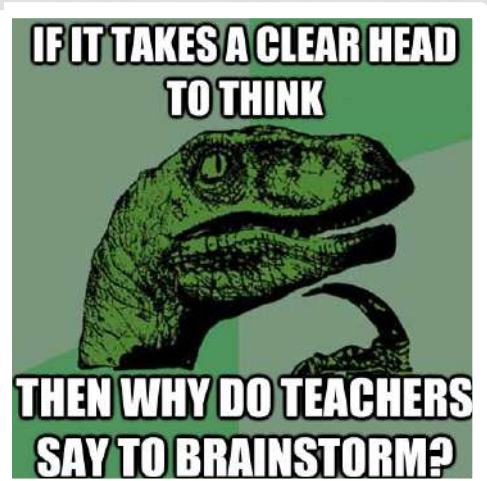
# Example of Deconstructing a Prompt

**PROMPT:** Select a person you know who does a good job in his or her profession. This person may be an entertainer, an athlete, a character in a story, or simply a successful family member—it may even be one of your classmates. Write a multi-paragraph essay describing why you think this individual is so good at his or her job. Include specific examples and details to support your response.

 <p><b><u>R</u>ole</b></p>	<p>What role do you take as the writer? (student, citizen, expert)</p> <p>I am writing this as a student.</p>
 <p><b><u>A</u>udience</b></p>	<p>Who is your audience? (class, parent, teacher, friend)</p> <p>My audience will be the teacher.</p>
 <p><b><u>F</u>ormat</b></p>	<p>What kind of response are you writing?</p> <p>I am writing a descriptive multi-paragraph essay.</p>
 <p><b><u>T</u>ask</b></p>	<p>What are the verbs in the prompt asking you to do?</p> <p><u>Select</u> a person, <u>write</u> an essay describing why he/she is good at his/her job, <u>include</u> examples and details</p>
 <p><b><u>S</u>trong key words</b></p>	<p>What are the key words that you need to include in your response?</p> <p>Profession, successful</p>

# YOUR TURN

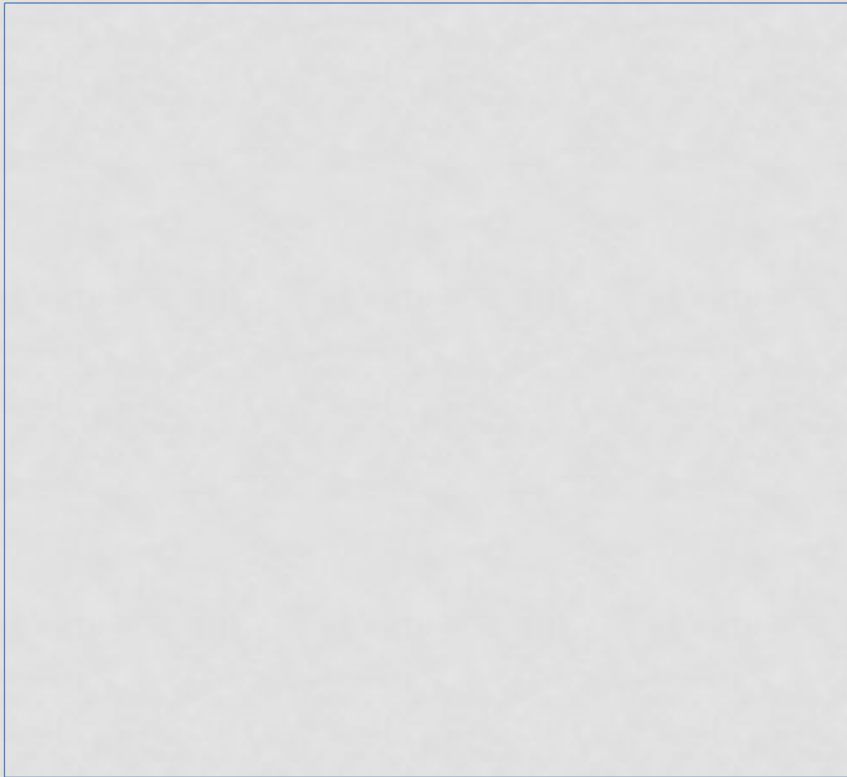
- Look at the graphic organizer in front of you and complete it.
- I want you to unpack/deconstruct your prompt. You have 5 minutes.
  - What is your **role**?
  - Who is your **audience**?
  - What should the **format** of your response look like?
  - Look at the verbs used in the prompt. What are the **tasks** you must complete?
  - Are there any **strong key words** that you should use



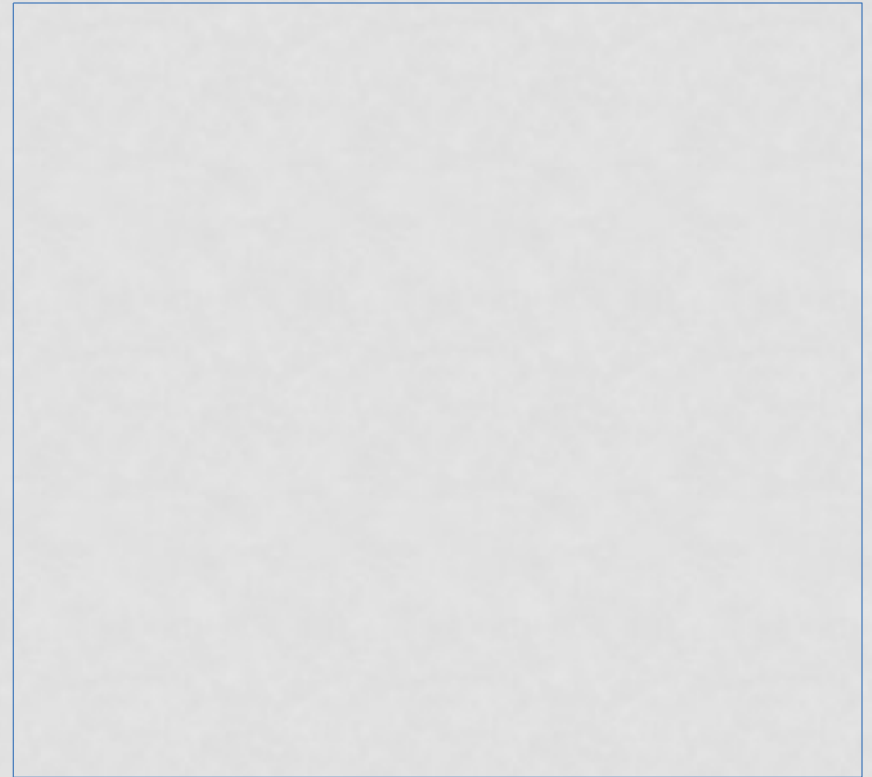
# BRAINSTORMING

# BRAINSTORMING

**Why do we do it?**

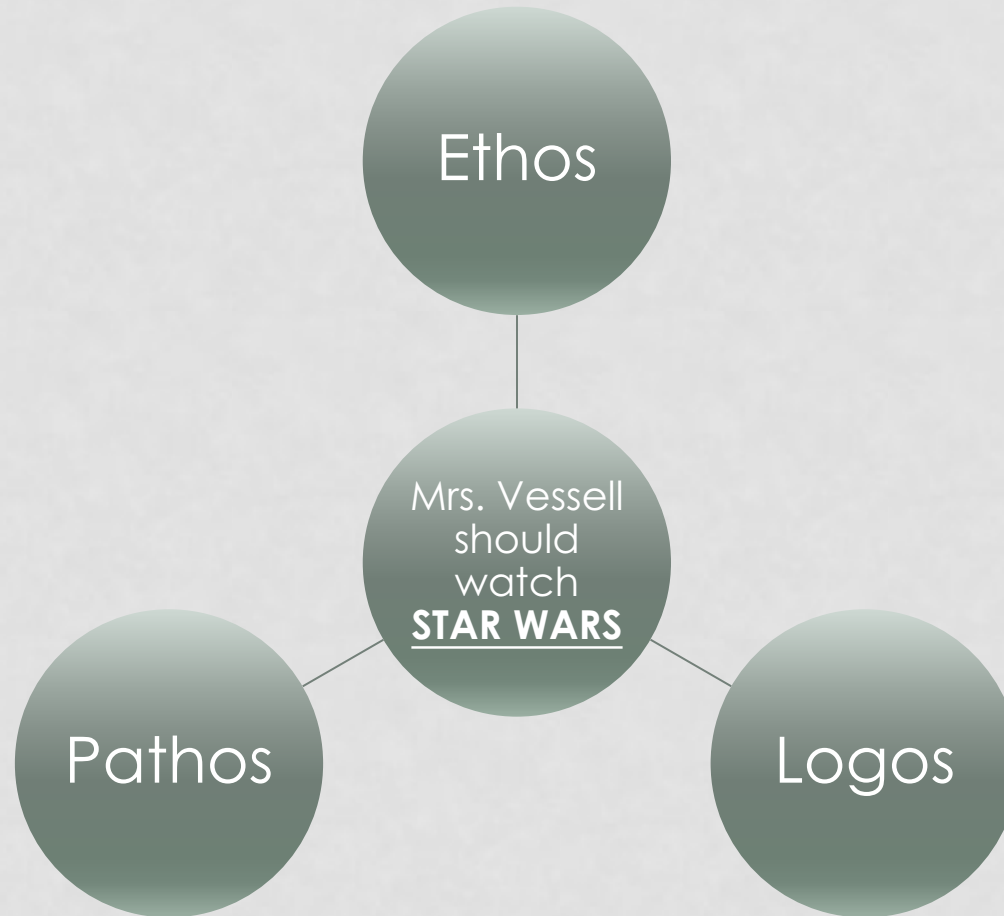
A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for taking notes on the reasons for brainstorming.

**Different Methods**

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for taking notes on different brainstorming methods.



# PLANNING YOUR ESSAY





# HOW TO CONSTRUCT A THESIS STATEMENT

... ONLY THE MOST IMPORTANT SENTENCE OF YOUR  
ESSAY.

# WHAT IS A THESIS STATEMENT?

- It's that sentence in your essay that **contains the focus** of your essay and tells your reader what the essay will be about.
- Goes at the end of intro paragraph
- **YOUR THESIS STATEMENT MUST BE ARGUABLE!!**

## A SUCCESSFUL THESIS STATEMENT:



- is usually one sentence
- is a statement, not a question
- identifies the subject of the paper
- takes a stand rather than simply announcing a subject



# QUICK AND EASY THESIS

- A thesis statement does three things
  1. Answers the question/prompt
  2. Picks a side
  3. Gives 3 subtopics

- Easy-Peasy Thesis Statement Formula/Format:

- [Your opinion] because [subtopic 1], [subtopic 2], [subtopic 3].

- **Example:** Mrs. Vessell is the best teacher in the world because she truly cares about her students, has a vast knowledge of literature, and expects a lot from her students



# YOUR TURN

- Using the same prompt we used for the RAFT and Brainstorm, construct a thesis statement that outlines your argument.
- Remember the basic format:
  - [Your opinion] because [subtopic 1], [subtopic 2], [subtopic 3].

