Use these Data Sheets to gather data, brainstorm, and trouble-shoot the logical skeleton of your argument and support. Sketch, question, explore, rethink, and find what works. Find the best phrasing. Be daring and stretch the possible. Cut pages in half.

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| **State your Essay Question** | **State Your Thesis** |

At the top of each data sheet devoted to your reasons, state BOTH the THESIS (or Claim) plus the REASON. Together they form a logical unit of argument. They also provide a template for your [Topic/Transition/Linking sentences](http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/Coherence.htm)

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| **REASON #1—Claim (Thesis) + Reason** (be sure to phase your reason as a “because” clause) e.g. Creon acts immorally because he acts out of preserving his pride and position more than what is right.  Collect as much (textual) support for this PRIMARY SUPPORT as you can, here. | **REASON #2—Claim (Thesis) + Reason** (be sure to phase your reason as a “because” clause) e.g. Creon acts immorally because he ignores wise advice when it is given to him.  Collect as much (textual) support for this PRIMARY SUPPORT as you can, here. |

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| **REASON #3—Claim (Thesis) + Reason** (be sure to phase your reason as a “because” clause) e.g. Creon acts immorally because he ignores the laws of the gods.  Collect as much (textual) support for this PRIMARY SUPPORT as you can, here. | **REASON #4??? #5???—Claim (Thesis) + Reason** (be sure to phase your reason as a “because” clause) |