1. **Consider the Prompt:**
2. Carefully read through the prompt. Ask yourself: What am I being asked to do? Take notes.
3. Make a tentative decision about which prompt you would like to write about.

**II)** **Freewrite:**

1. A freewrite is when you write continuously for a given period of time about a topic or subject. Don’t let yourself stop writing, even if you think you’ve run out of ideas. In our case, you will write about the prompt that you chose for Essay #2. (5-7 minutes)
2. **Develop a working thesis:**

1. Using what you wrote in your freewrite, develop a tentative thesis. Here are

some steps and rules you can follow:

1. The thesis must state:
2. your topic, e.g., Pap’s character development in *We the Animals*

2) your position on that topic, e.g., Pap may seem like a flat character,

but he is actually a fully developed, round character.

1. Focus your topic:
2. e.g., Pap’s character is complicated by both his love for and desire

to leave his family.

1. Pose a question: luckily, I have asked the question for you: *How do a*

*character’s traits (action, speech, descriptions) contribute to your overall understanding of the character?*

1. Answer the question: e.g., *In We the Animals, Pap may seem like a flat*

*character. However, his actions, speech, and descriptions reveal him to be a complicated, thus round character.*

Your thesis statement should entice your audience to read further. Each subsequent paragraph in the body of your paper should support your thesis and prove your claim. If you decide that you would like to try writing a different thesis on a different topic, repeat the steps above to help you do so.