

## Sample Argumentative Brainstorming Page

**Directions:** Take notes on the page range indicated. Annotate the prompt and generate scaffolding questions as needed to guide your thinking about which details from the text are most important.

- **Prompt:** *Night* begins with descriptions of Eliezer's deep devotion to Judaism, but the experiences he endures during the Holocaust challenge and reshape his faith. Think about the moments you have read so far that most influence his religious beliefs and his relationship with God. Write an argument about how Eliezer's faith has changed and what you believe is the main cause of this transformation.

| Page 45                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● stops praying (p. 45)</li><li>● too much suffering → questioning faith in God (p. 45)</li><li>● God ≠ good/fair (p. 45)</li><li>● others → stay committed to beliefs (p. 45)</li><li>● Eliezer → unsure, confused about God (p. 45)</li></ul> |

**Directions:** Synthesize trends from the details you gathered above. Use the trends to draft a claim and two topic sentences with clear relationships to the claim. Finally, choose three pieces of evidence for each topic sentence that support it most strongly.

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| <p>Claim: At first, Eliezer is devoted to God and believes in God's goodness, but after experiencing extreme suffering, he no longer believes that God will answer his prayers.</p>                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p>Topic Sentence 1: Eliezer begins to question his devotion to God because the violence he witnesses directly contradicts the certainty in God's justice that he once had.</p>                                         | <p>Topic Sentence 2: As Eliezer remains in concentration camps and is subjected to further violence, cruelty, and dehumanization, he accepts that he can no longer find answers or comfort in faith.</p> |
| <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "As for me, I had ceased to pray." (p. 45)</li> <li>• "I concurred with Job!" (p. 45)</li> <li>• "[. . .] I doubted His absolute justice." (p. 45)</li> </ul> | <p>Evidence:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                         |