**Planning Your Essay**

Read all the documents closely. Use this page to plan your essay using a prewriting strategy.

Essay Question

STATEMENT: The Gulf of Tonkin Incident was the reason the U.S. fought the War in Vietnam. ***Do you agree with this explanation of the cause of the Vietnam War? Why or why not? Use and cite evidence from the documents to support your analysis of this statement.***

My Thesis Statement is:

At least three documents I plan to use to support my thesis (list with author, date, and type of document.

Document 1

Document 2

Document 3

How do these documents, individually or together, support my thesis? Include ways the date and origins of the documents may strengthen or weaken my thesis.

What historical context or background information do I need to include to back up my claim and clarify the meaning of the sources I use?

Are there other sources that could challenge my thesis? What arguments might be made against that thesis and how do I answer them?

