Cause & Effect Brainstorming Sheet

Name: _______________________________

• In the space below, list three possible topics for your cause & effect paper. FWIW, it’d be dandy if your topic was something that is currently being discussed in the news. <Make sure that the topic isn’t something you wrote about in high school.>
  1. 
  2. 
  3. 

• Create a causal claim for each topic listed above. In other words, say my topic concerns twitter and conspiracy theories. The causal claim would be: Twitter facilitates the evolution and dissemination of conspiracy theories.
  1. 
  2. 
  3. 

• Of the three possible topics listed above, which topic do you think is the best one and why?

• What, in your opinion, does a cause/effect essay need in order to be persuasive?

• What do you need to do to persuade your audience? <Think about this. Your grandparents, even your parents, might not be totally persuaded your causal argument concerning Twitter. Why? They probably don’t know all that much about how Twitter works. What does that mean? You need to educate them. Twitter is infinitely gameable. If your only purpose is to gain a following, shiny fake stories and emotional manipulation is your way to do this. You’d have to explain this to your audience.>