My Research Project: Arrange an Argument by Clustering

Clustering can help you explore the relationships among your main point, thesis statement, reasons, and evidence. To create a cluster:

1. In the middle of a sheet of paper, or in the center of a digital document (a word processing file or graphics file), write your main point or thesis statement.
2. Place your reasons around your main point or thesis statement.
3. Next to each reason, list the evidence you’ll present to support that reason.
4. Think about the relationships among your main point, reasons, and evidence, and draw lines and circles to show those relationships.
5. Annotate your cluster to indicate the nature of the relationships you’ve identified.