

Think about the topic described in the microtheme section below. BEFORE YOU BEGIN, prewrite, using the cluster graphic organizer below. Take this to the professor for immediate feedback. After you are given the “go ahead,” work on your “road map” outline, using the form the professor will give you. Take that to the professor for feedback. After you get the “go ahead” on your road map outline, begin writing your first draft on lined notebook paper.

NAME _____

You will be writing an essay about a **special object** that you either **received or lost**, in a situation that involved a **lot of emotion** for you. This could be, for instance, a special family heirloom that you got when your beloved aunt died; a tattoo you had to have removed after a painful breakup; your first \$20 bill, which you got for your 10th birthday and then tragically lost; a drawing of you done by your childhood best friend.

As you are prewriting, focus on these guideposts:

1. **The Situation:** Where, when, who, what (include a description of the special object and the people and circumstances involved in your receiving it or losing it)
2. **Conflict:** This is the problem, conflict, friction, or even *positive emotional change* that is at the heart of the narrative
3. **Struggle:** This is essentially the narrative of *what happened* and, to some extent, *how* and *why* leading up to the final outcome of gain or loss
4. **Outcome:** The result; an account of the actual gain or loss
5. **Meaning:** The story is interesting only insofar as it has some meaning, a “moral of the story”

