/ Name

 Period

**I am What I am: Brainstorming**

You are going to write a poem about what you believe. Before you start, we will do some brainstorming as a class. Think about who you are today. Compare that young man or woman to the child you used to be. List important experiences you have had, and lessons you have learned.

Answer these questions as you brainstorm: What is your greatest accomplishment? What would you call you greatest failure? What have your parents taught you? What have your parents not taught you? What is junior high teaching you? What is the hardest thing you have done? What is the hardest thing you have experienced? What do you believe? What is your most important belief? What are your long-term goals?

Make a list of your answerers and ideas below. **Don’t describe any of the things you list yet!**

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|   |  **Questions to think about:*** Which ideas are the most unique to me?
* Which ideas might surprise others?
* Which ideas do I have the most to say about?
* Which ideas do I feel strongest about?

Choose the **topic/topics** you will write your poem about:   |

Describe in detail the topic(s) you chose (use figurative language, imagery, & sensory details:

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| 1. Explain. Why is this topic important to you?
2. How can you make this topic important to others?
 | In class we have been studying figurative language. In poetry it is important to use powerful words and phrases. Make a list of most effective words or phrases that you could use in your poem.   |

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| What will be the theme of your poem? Please explain in complete sentences: |