Creating and Using Note cards

Note cards are your best tool for gathering usable information to write a documented essay. I STRONGLY suggest that you use note cards and that you include them with your drafts when you turn in your final Problem/Solution Essay.

If you make useful note cards as you are gathering information, you will save yourself much time and frustration later.

As you search for information on your problem and its solution, have a stack of note cards ready. Some of you may be very high-tech and wish to "do" your note cards electronically. That is fine, but by no means necessary. Some of you may just want to jot down notes on notebook paper. This is the least usable of formats.

Good, old-fashioned 3x5 cards are extremely handy. They don't take up much space, they fit in your pocket, they don't die an electronic death without warning, they are much harder for your dog to eat, and they are physically sortable—a huge help when organizing your essay. You can spread them out on a table or on a counter or even on the floor and physically move them around as you ask yourself questions about the sequence of your argument and explanation and the level of detail. Do I need more? Is this too much? Ah, this will work!

Remember that your primary goal for this is to convince your readers that your problem needs fixing and that your solution is logical, reasonable and the best choice. You want your readers to change. To do so, you will need a logical, linear sequence of facts and opinions that leads the reader to an understanding (in this case of your problem and its best solution).

To make note cards, I suggest you do the following:

__ Put your name in the upper right-hand corner of each card.
__ Write down all the citation information for your bit of information—using the MLA format requirements.
__ Write down, verbatim, the fact or quotation you think might be helpful.
__ On the back of the card, paraphrase that fact or quotation.
__ Put ONLY one fact or quotation on each note card.
__ Gather AT LEAST four times as much information as required. That way you have a choice and won't have to go back and look for more information later.
Barney Bagel

Fred Hein clarifies the heredity phenomenon:

"Since only half of each parent's chromosomes are transmitted to a child and since this half represents a chance selection of those the child could inherit, only twins that develop from a single fertilized egg that splits in two have identical chromosomes." (294)

(paraphrase)

Fred Hein specifies that twins have identical chromosomes because they grow from one egg that divides after fertilization. He affirms that most brothers and sisters differ because of the "chance selection" of chromosomes transmitted by each parent (294).