**OUTLINE**

**Research Topic:**

**Research Question:**

**Working Thesis:**

**Counterargument:**

*Crafting OPENING SENTENCES*

The opening sentences in your writing carry big responsibilities, setting the tone and often the scene—and helping draw your readers in by arousing their interest and curiosity.

*Suggestions:*

* With a strong, dramatic—or deceptively simple—statement
* With a vivid image
* With a provocative question
* With an anecdote (a short and amusing or interesting story relating to topic)
* With a startling claim

**I. Introduction**

* Hook/Attention Grabber:
* Background information & connecting sentences:
* Thesis statement:
* Smooth transition to body paragraphs:

**II. Supporting Point 1**

A. Topic Sentence:

1. Support and elaborate - by giving evidence, an example, fact or statistic, & explain.

2. Support & elaborate on point by providing commentary.

B. Topic Sentence 2:

1. Support and elaborate - by giving evidence, an example, fact or statistic, & explain.

2. Support & elaborate on point by providing commentary.

C. Transition

**III. Supporting Point 2:**

A. Topic Sentence:

1. Support and elaborate - by giving evidence, an example, fact or statistic, & explain.

2. Support & elaborate on point by providing commentary.

B. Topic Sentence 2:

1. Support and elaborate - by giving evidence, an example, fact or statistic, & explain.

2. Support & elaborate on point by providing commentary.

1. Transition

**IV. Supporting Point 3:**

A. Topic Sentence:

1. Support and elaborate - by giving evidence, an example, fact or statistic, & explain.

2. Support & elaborate on point by providing commentary.

B. Topic Sentence 2:

1. Support and elaborate - by giving evidence, an example, fact or statistic, & explain.

2. Support & elaborate on point by providing commentary.

C. Transition

**V. Counterargument**

A. Topic Sentence:

B. Counterargument

* **Purpose:** To anticipate audience’s objections/skepticisms; prove unbiased approach at researching, reporting, and thinking on topic.
* usually 1-2 paragraphs
* consider what possible argument might audience pose against your thesis and/or some aspect of your reasoning – insert one or more of those arguments here and ***refute*** them
* end paragraph with a concluding sentence that reasserts paper’s claim as a whole

C. Transition

**VI. Concluding Paragraph**

Re-state thesis (new words):

A. Sum up your paper.

B. What did you learn from your research?

C. Comment on the future of your topic as it relates to you.

Closing sentence or point:

**Crafting CLOSING SENTENCES**

* By reiterating your point
* By discussing the implications of your argument
* By asking a question
* By referring back to your beginning or by recommending or proposing some kind of action