



an essay guide for
ARGUMENTATIVE
WRITING

A Writing Mindset Resource

www.writingmindset.org



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Thank you for writing with me! Please feel free to reach out with questions, comments, or concerns.

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stephanie@writingmindset.org

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ESSAY GUIDE OVERVIEW

The argumentative essay takes a position and defends that position using evidence. You will need to create a claim, a counter-claim, and provide evidence for your reasons. Your task is to write an argumentative essay.

Overall Assignment

- Letter to Students from Teacher
- Assignment Overview
- Exemplar Assignment Notes
- Topic Selection (if applicable)
- Claim Statement Brainstorm

Introduction

- Claim Statement Creation
- Hook/Opening Notes
- Summary and Background Information Notes
- Revising the Claim Statement
- Make a Complete Introduction (Draft)

Body of Essay

- Body Paragraph Setup Notes
- Review Topic Sentences
- Review Inserting Evidence
- Counter-Claims
- Notes on Transitions
- Plan Body Paragraphs
- Make Complete Body Paragraphs (Draft)

Conclusion

- Notes on Conclusion Setup
- Restate Claim Statement
- Review Reasons/Evidence
- Call-to-Action
- Make a Complete Conclusion (Draft)

Assignment Notes

STUDENT LETTER FROM TEACHER

>> *WRITING TIP!*

Think about why your teacher is assigning this essay. What is the purpose? Why are you writing in this format and in this way?

Dear Students,

A writing template for a student letter from a teacher. It features a vertical red line on the left side, followed by 20 horizontal black lines for writing.

Sincerely,

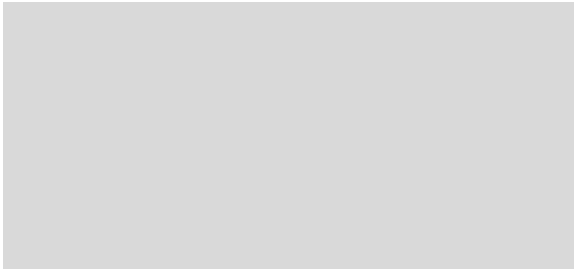
ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

Assignment Overview

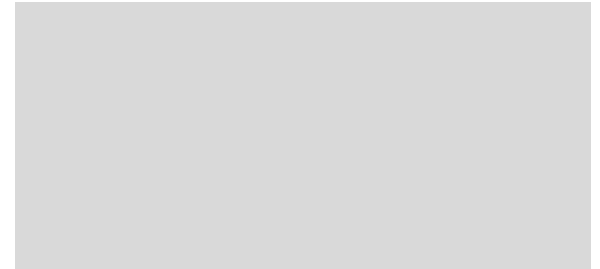
Description/Purpose



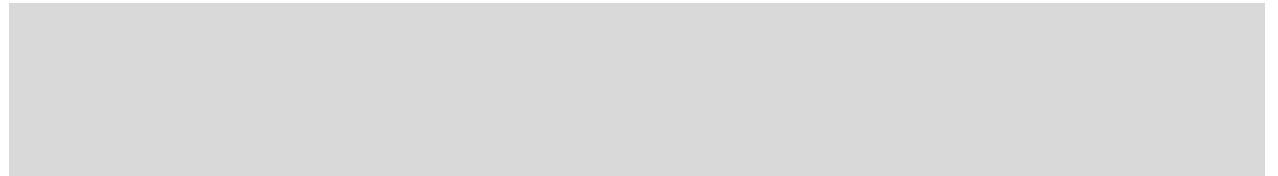
Role



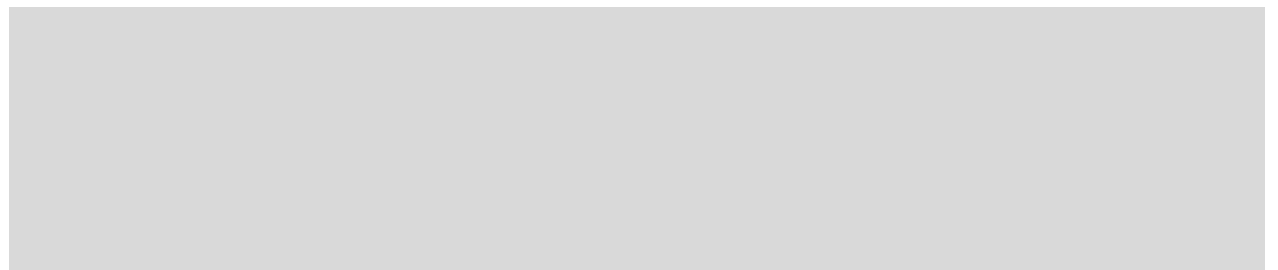
Audience



Grading Criteria



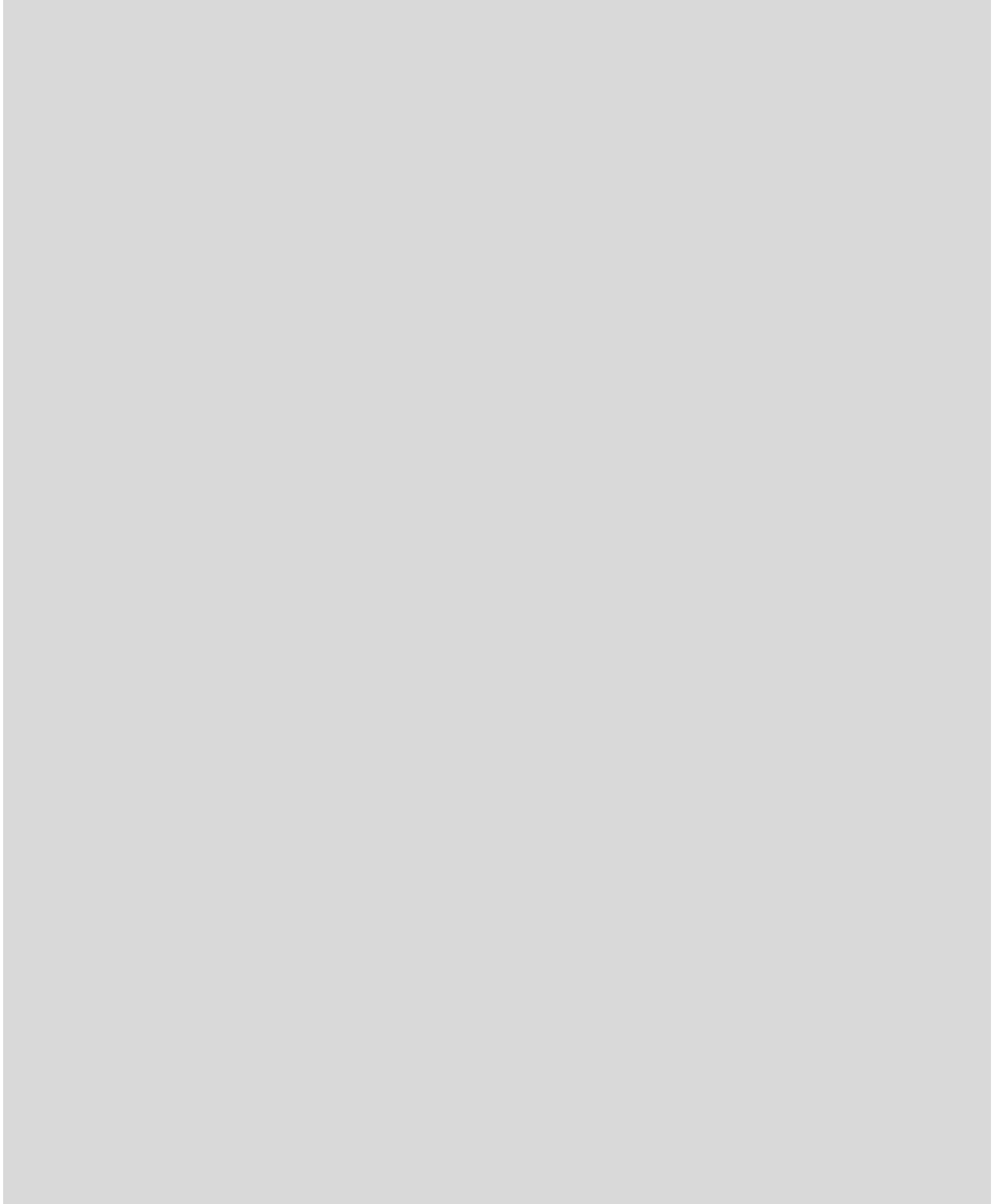
Steps/Due Dates



ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

Assignment Overview Visual Notes

Flow Map:



>> WRITING TIP!

What did the examples do that you would do? What did the examples do that you would NOT do?

Notes on Student Exemplar Papers

SAMPLE ESSAYS



A large, empty grey rectangular area intended for notes on the first student exemplar paper.



A large, empty grey rectangular area intended for notes on the second student exemplar paper.

TOPIC SELECTION

>> *WRITING TIP!*

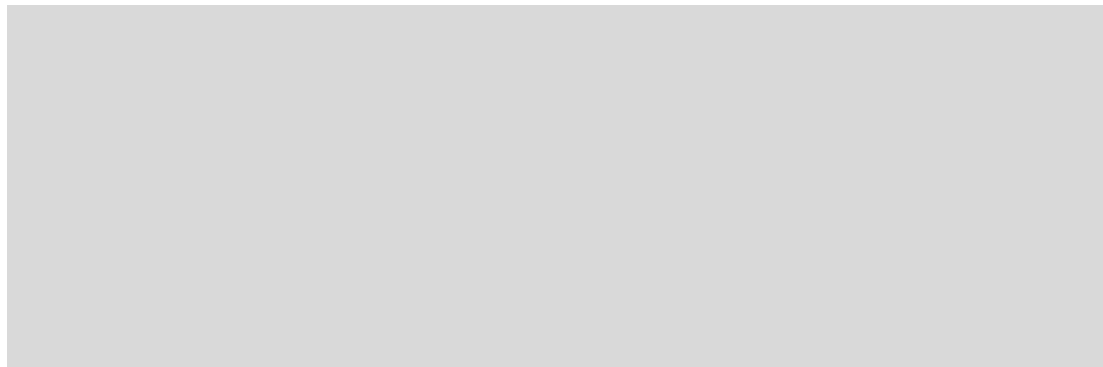
What side of the argument will you choose? What evidence or facts can you provide for both sides?

Topic Selection

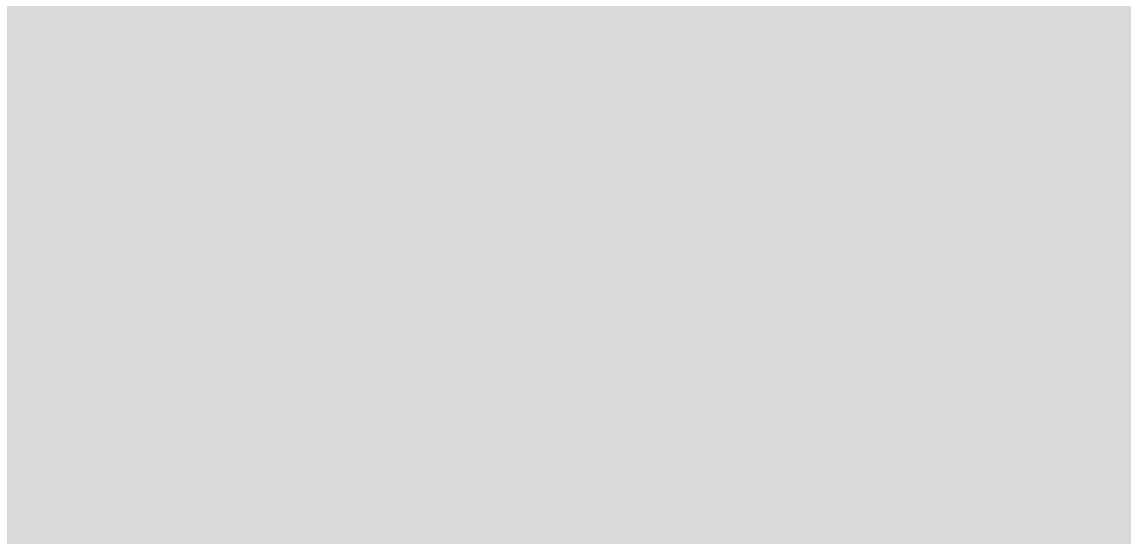
PRO



CON



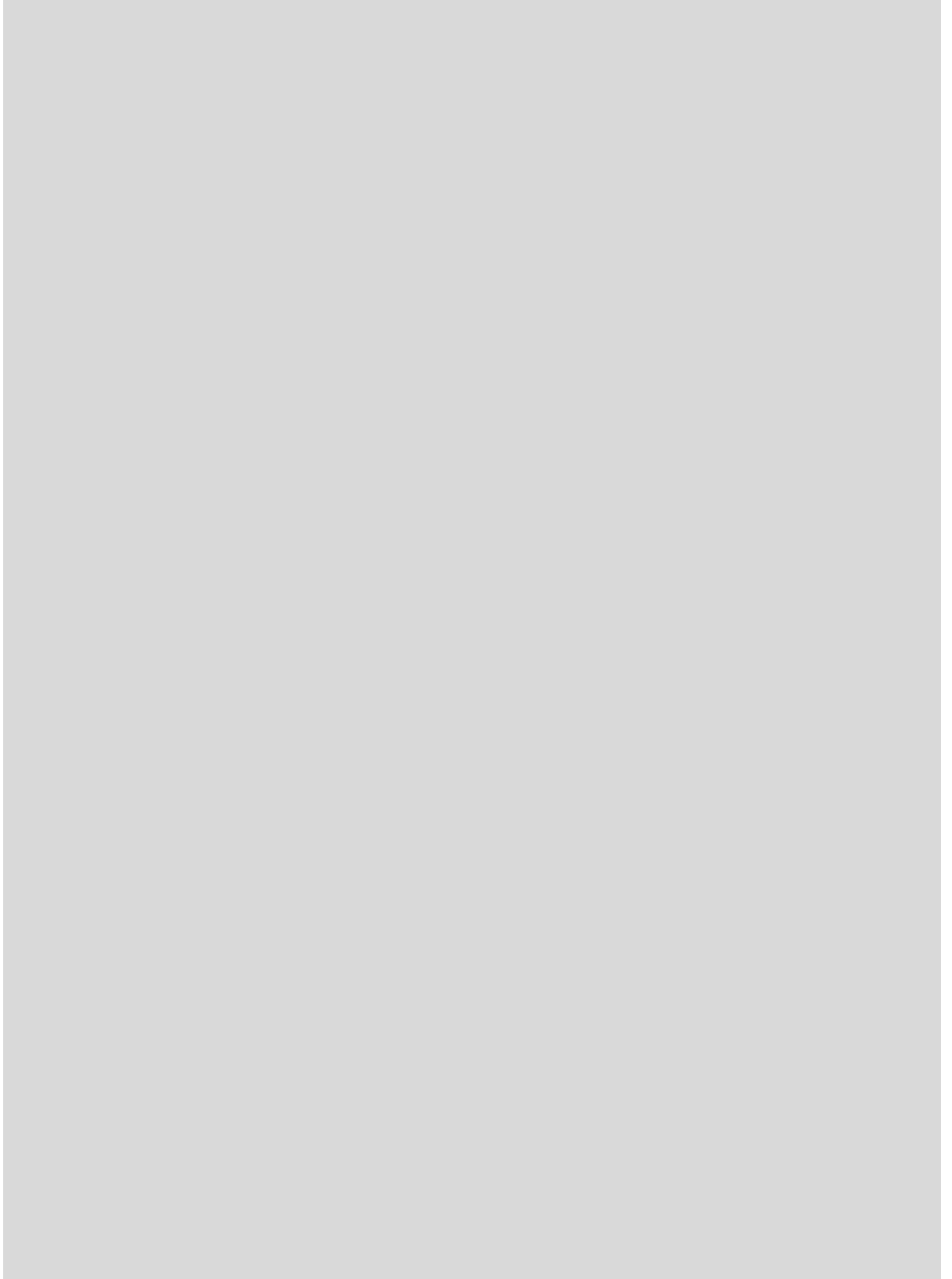
Rationale for Side Chosen



Notes for Your Writing

CLAIM STATEMENT BRAINSTORM

Claim Statement Brainstorm

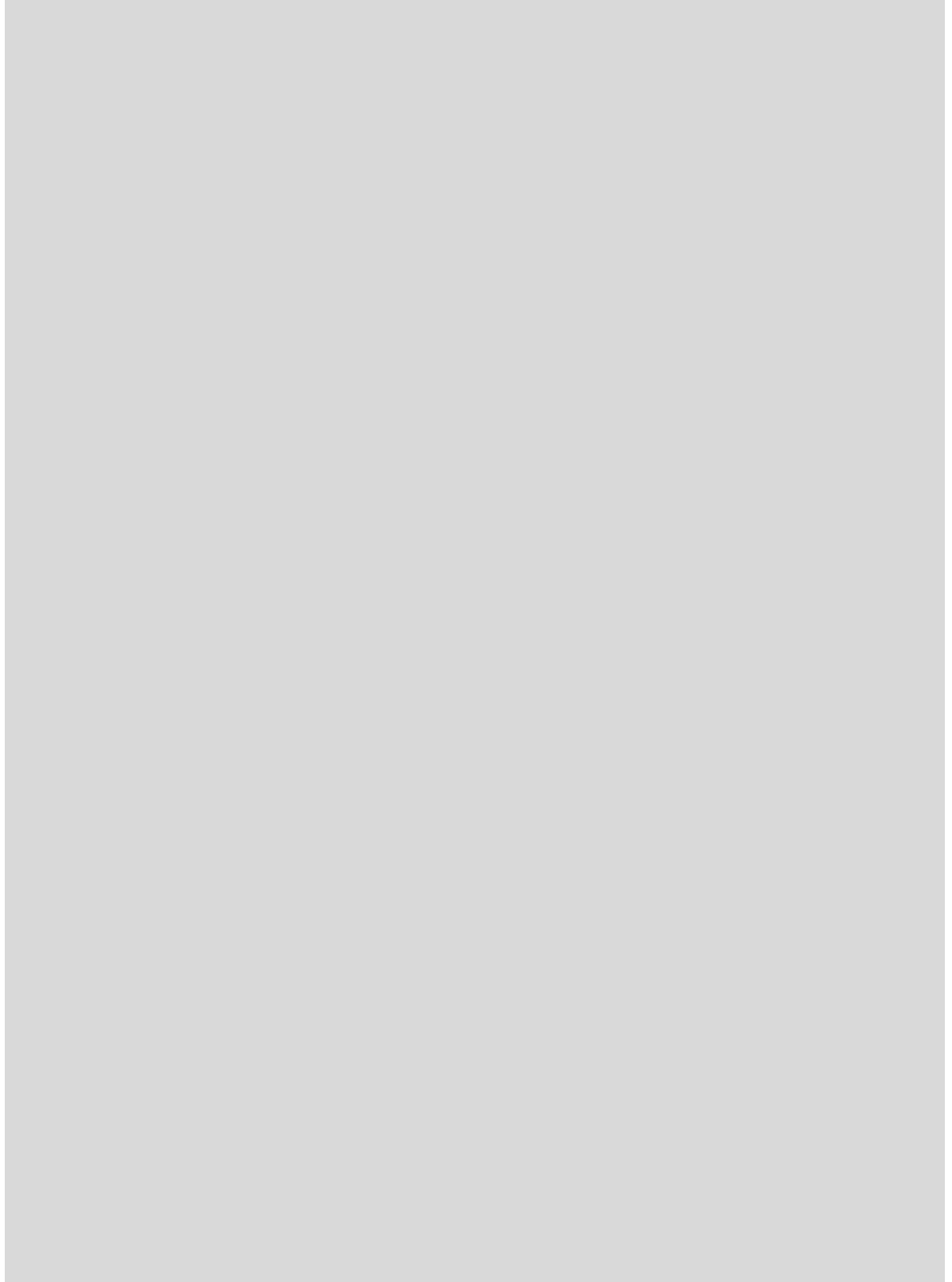


>> *WRITING TIP!*

What do you notice about the format of claim statement?
What do you notice about punctuation?

Claim Statement Examples

CLAIM STATEMENT EXAMPLES



CLAIM STATEMENT CREATION

>> **WRITING TIP!**

Copy down the format that you saw in the examples!

Claim Statement Creation

Topic

Position

Reason 1

Reason 2

Reason 3

>> **WRITING TIP!**

What first lines in books or movies do you find interesting?
What draws you in?

HOOKS/LEADS/OPENING LINES

Notes on Hook/Leads/Opening Lines

Types/Examples

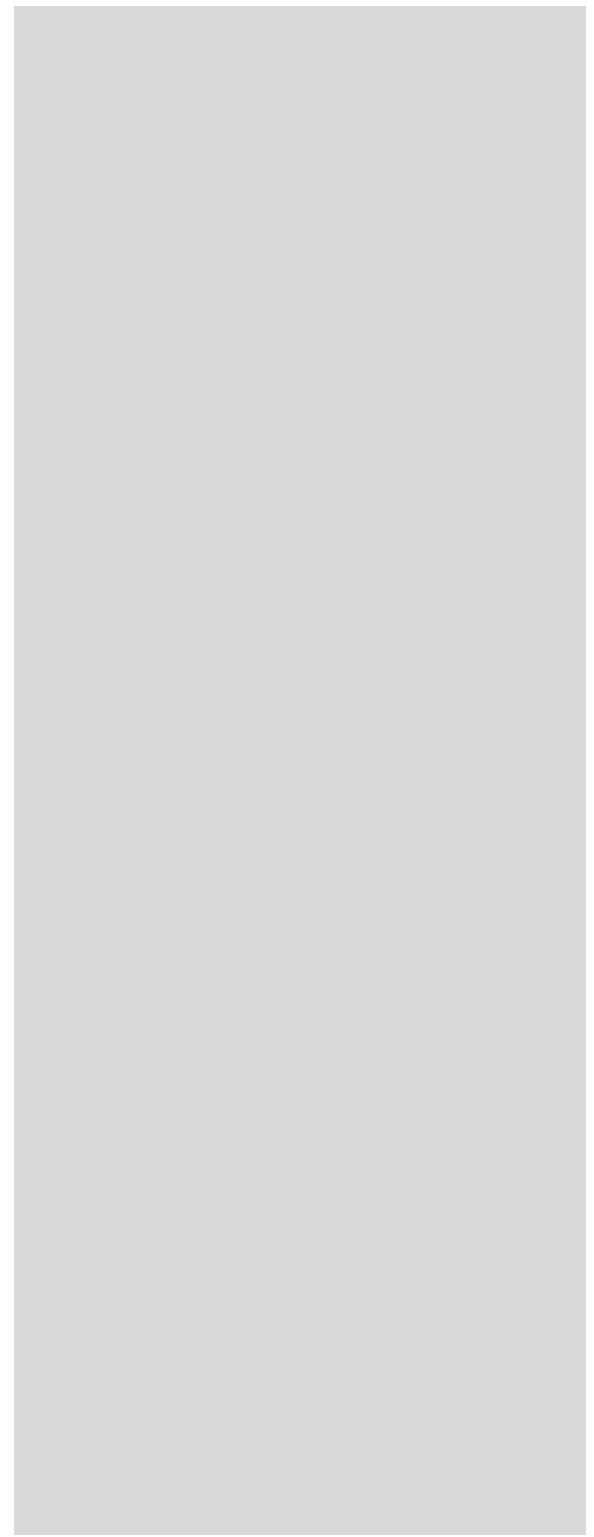
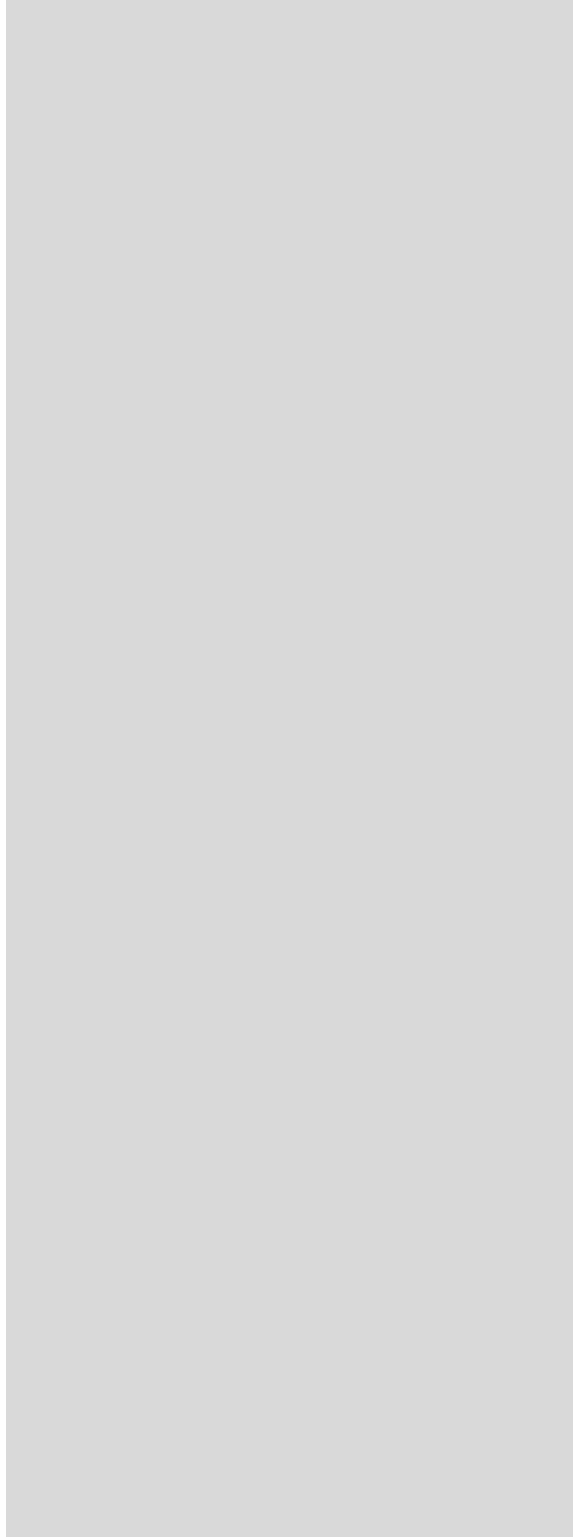
Brainstorm

INTRODUCTION DRAFTING

>> *WRITING TIP!*

What is the summary of the topic that is being argued? What information is needed to understand what the essay is about?

Notes on Summary Information/Background Information



INTRODUCTION DRAFTING

Revise the Claim/Rough Draft of Introduction

1

Write your hook.

2

Write your summary/background information.

3

Write your claim statement.

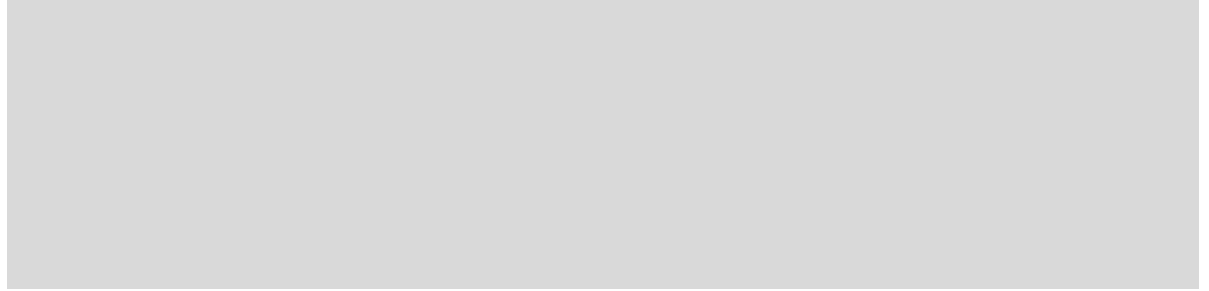
BODY PARAGRAPHS: TOPIC SENTENCES

>> *WRITING TIP!*

An easy way to track this is to color-code your reasons in your claim and match them with the topic sentences in your body paragraphs.

Notes on Topic Sentences

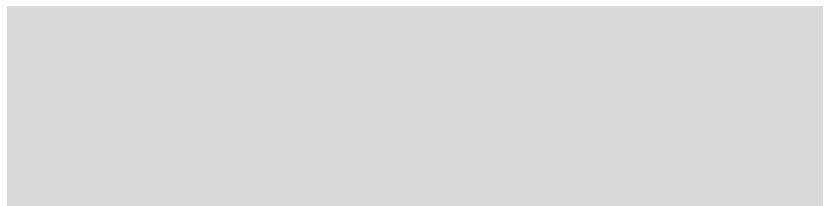
What is a Topic Sentence?



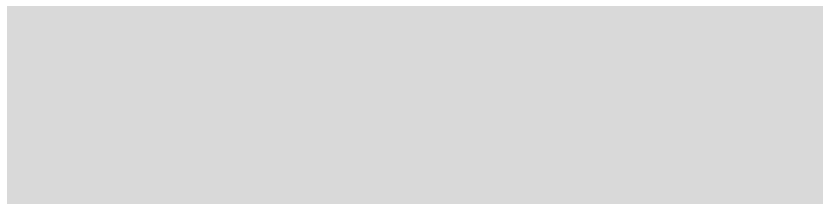
Topic Sentence Examples



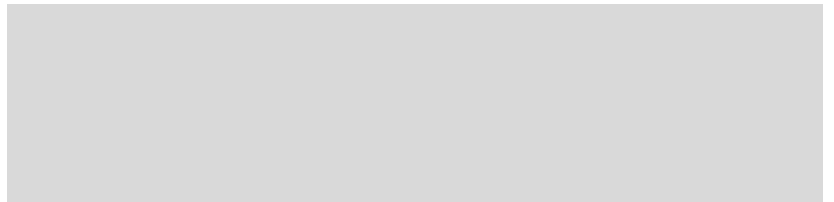
Reason 1



Reason 2



Reason 3



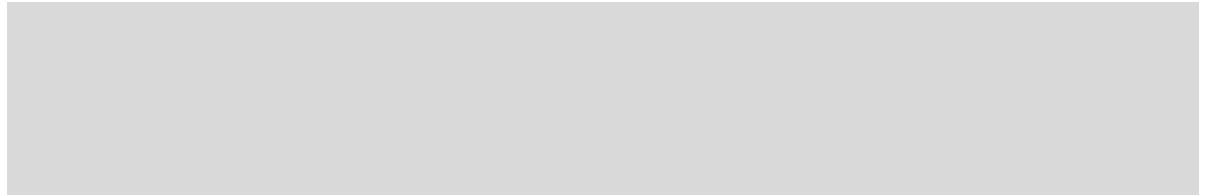
BODY PARAGRAPHS: EVIDENCE

>> *WRITING TIP!*

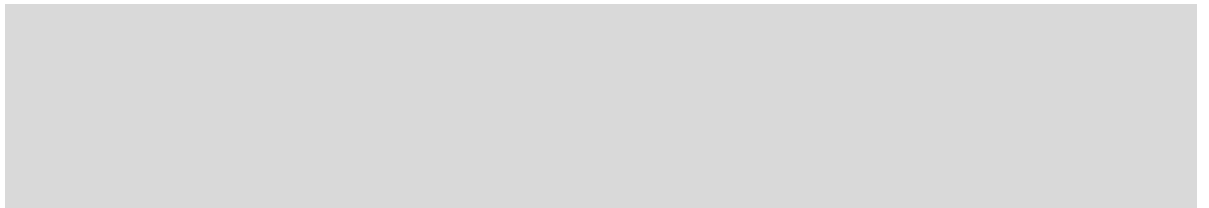
When putting evidence in your paper, be as specific as possible. Include details, page numbers, and the setup of the example. This will make your analysis stronger in your body paragraph.

How to Insert Evidence Notes

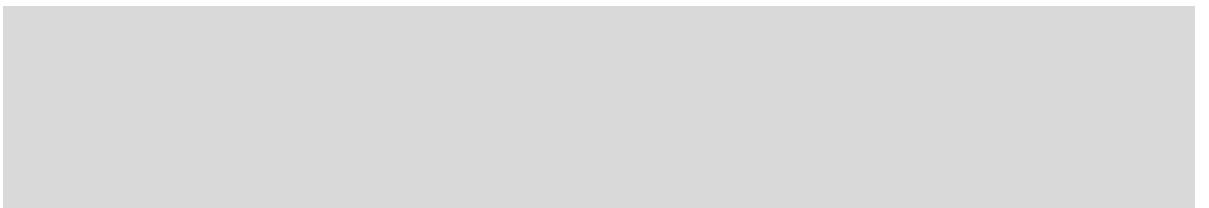
Introducing a Citation



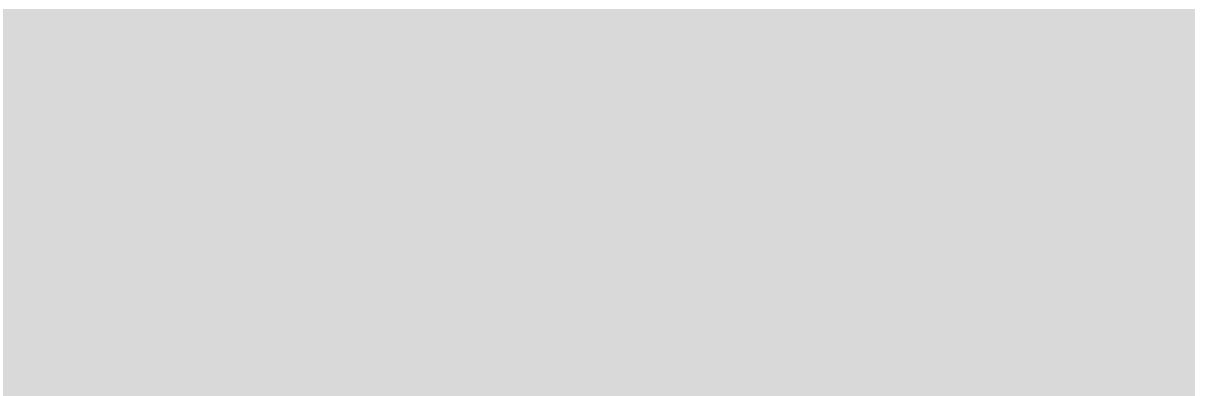
Citation/Evidence



Source



Explaining the Citation



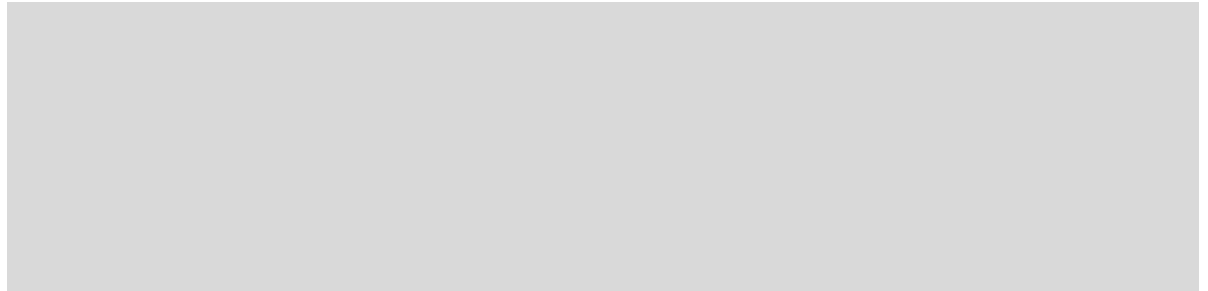
BODY PARAGRAPHS: COUNTER-CLAIMS

>> *WRITING TIP!*


Go back to the topic selection page. What reasons would someone have to choose the OTHER side of the argument? Try to prove them wrong.

Notes on Counter-Claims

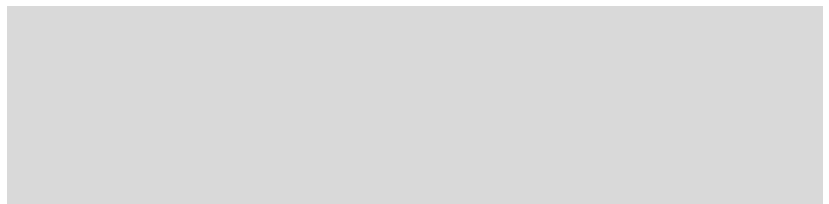
What is a Counter-Claim? Where does it go in my paper?



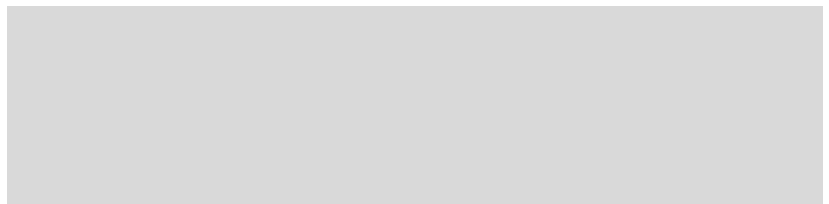
Counter-Claim Examples



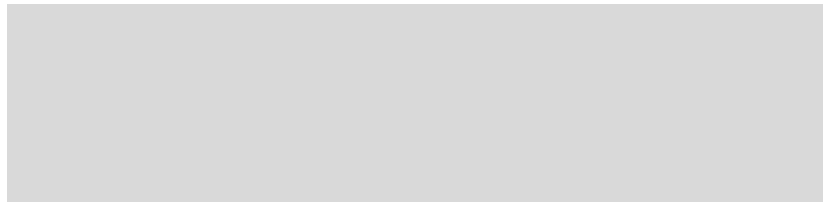
Counter-Claim
#1



Counter-Claim
#2



Counter-Claim
#3



BODY PARAGRAPHS: TRANSITIONS

>> **WRITING TIP!**

Don't let transitions trip you up! Think of transitions like a conversation. One topic should lead into the next without an awkward pause or choppy switch over in what is being discussed.

Notes on Transitions

Types/Examples

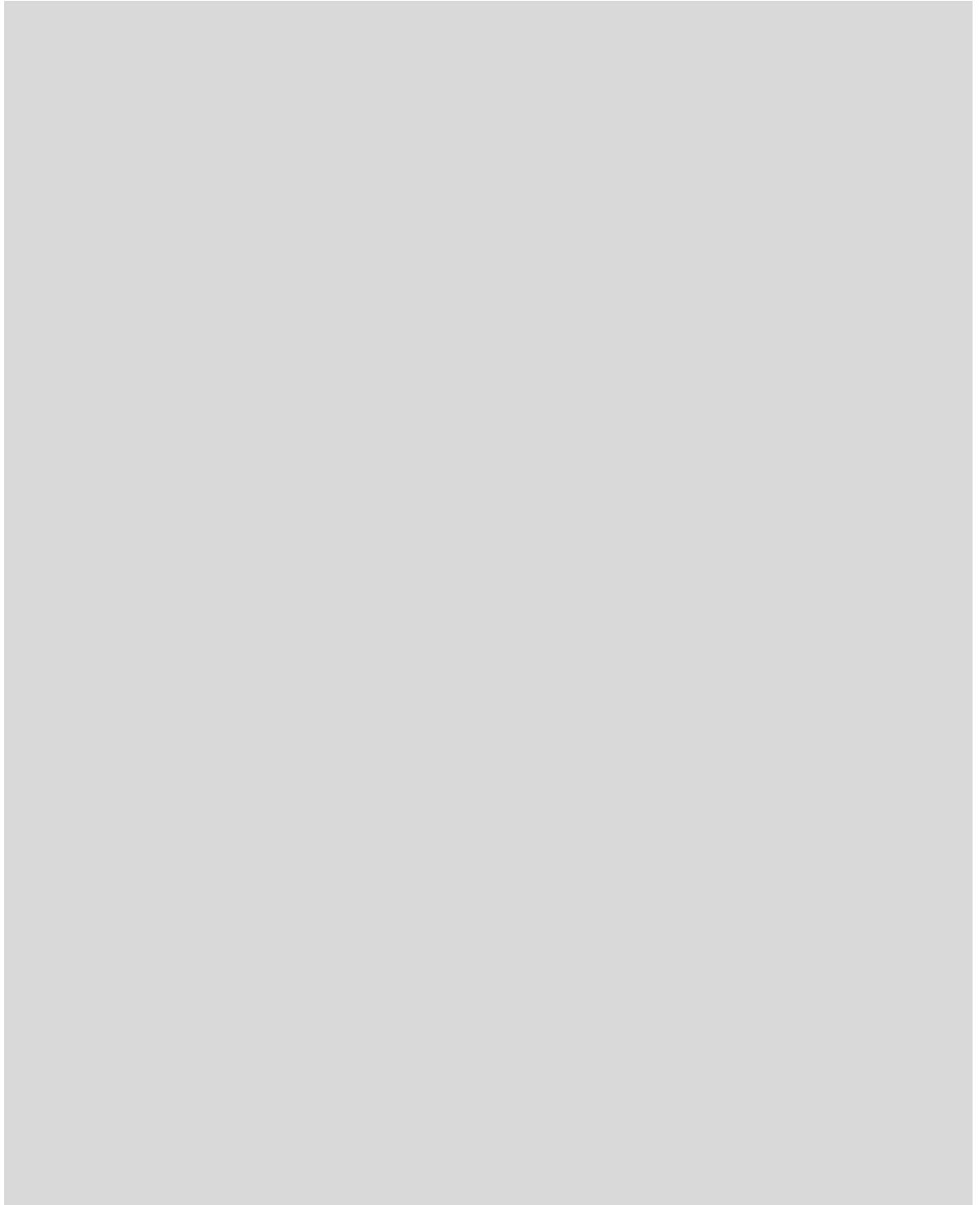
Brainstorm

>> *WRITING TIP!*

Think of your last sentence as a "drop-the-mic" sentence. You want the reader to think about how great your last line was in their mind!

CONCLUSION: SETUP

Notes on Conclusion Setup



Drafting

DRAFTING:INTRODUCTION

Rewrite your Introduction draft first.

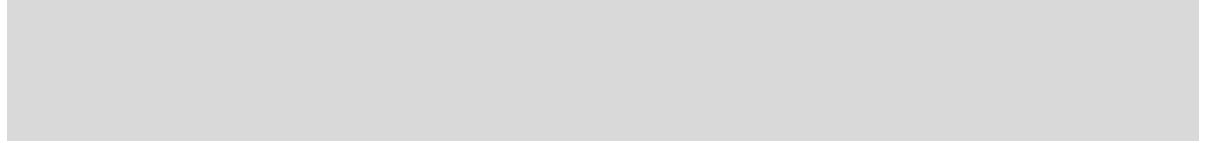
Write your hook, summary or background information on topic, and claim statement.

DRAFTING: BODY PARAGRAPHS

Next, write your body paragraphs.

Body Paragraph Plan

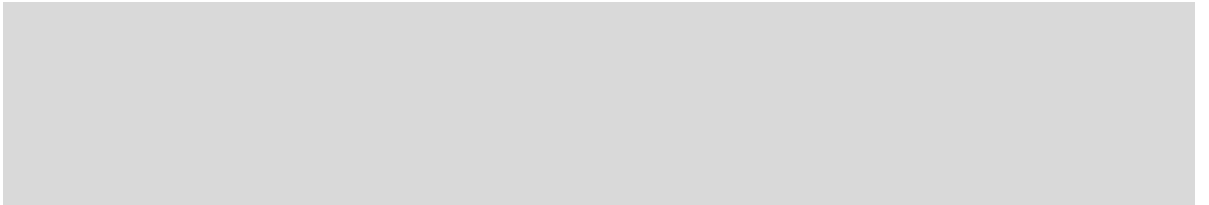
Topic Sentence



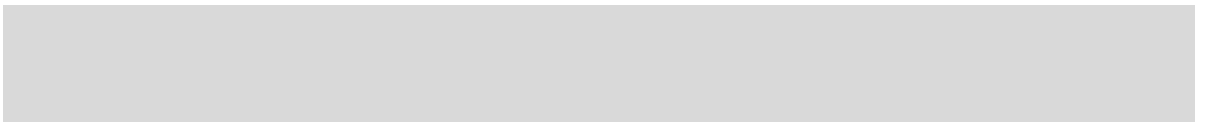
Introducing Evidence



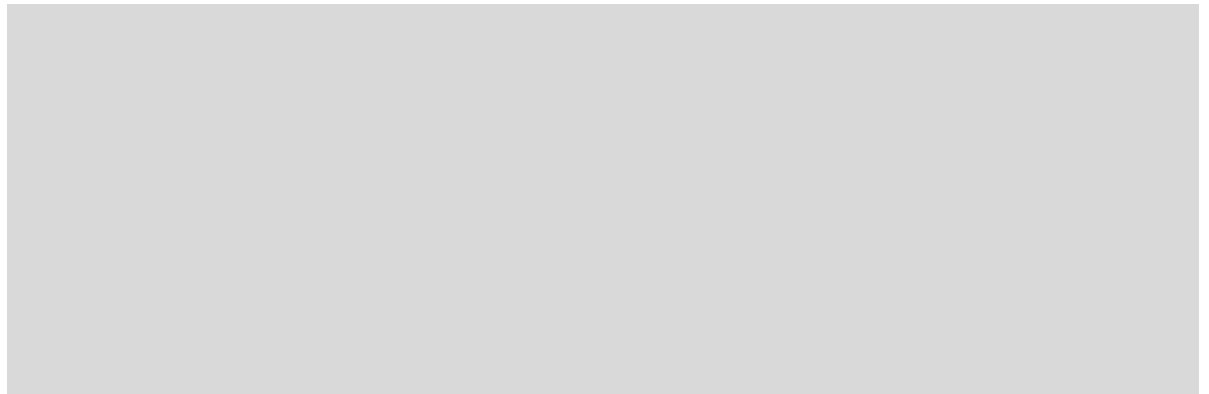
Citation/Evidence



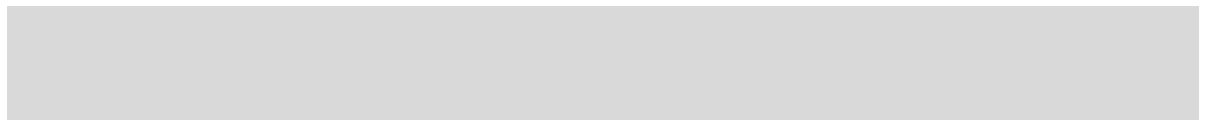
Source



Explaining the Citation/Counter-Claim



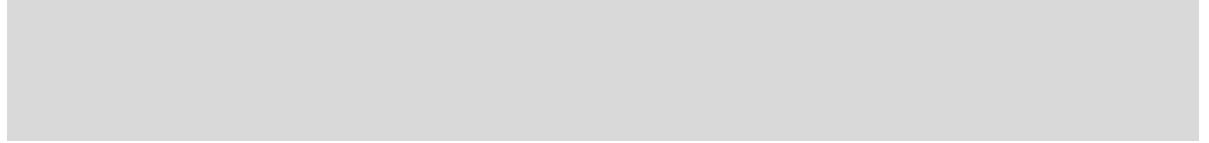
Transition/Wrap-Up



DRAFTING: BODY PARAGRAPHS

Body Paragraph Plan

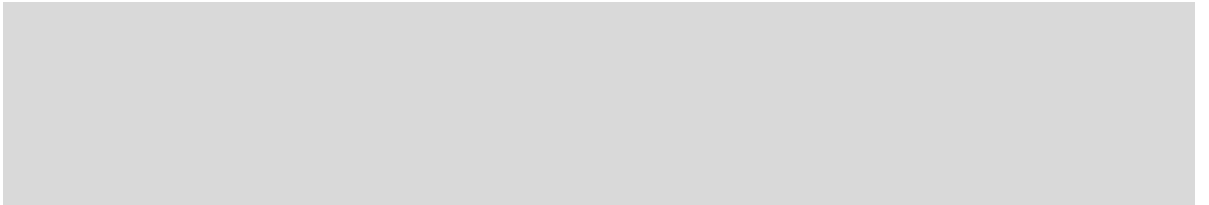
Topic Sentence



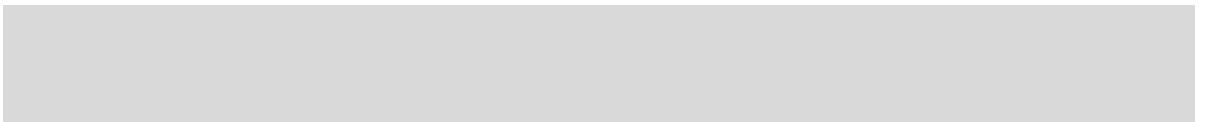
Introducing Evidence




Citation/Evidence



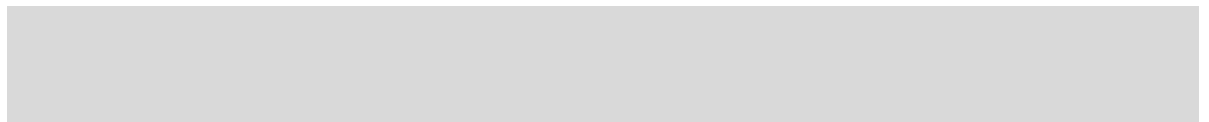
Source



Explaining the Citation/Counter-Claim



Transition/Wrap-Up




DRAFTING: BODY PARAGRAPHS

Body Paragraph Plan

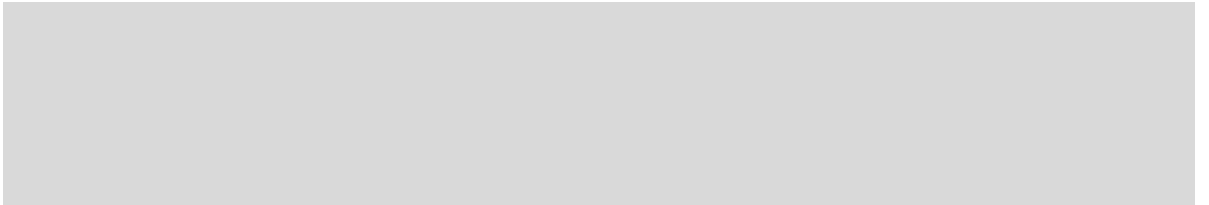
Topic Sentence



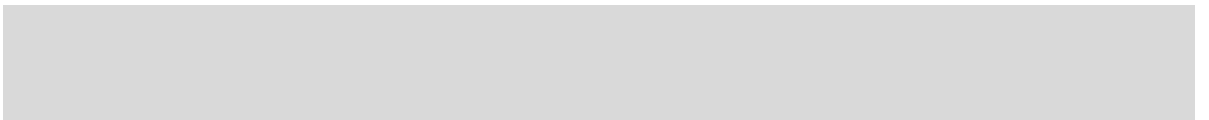
Introducing Evidence



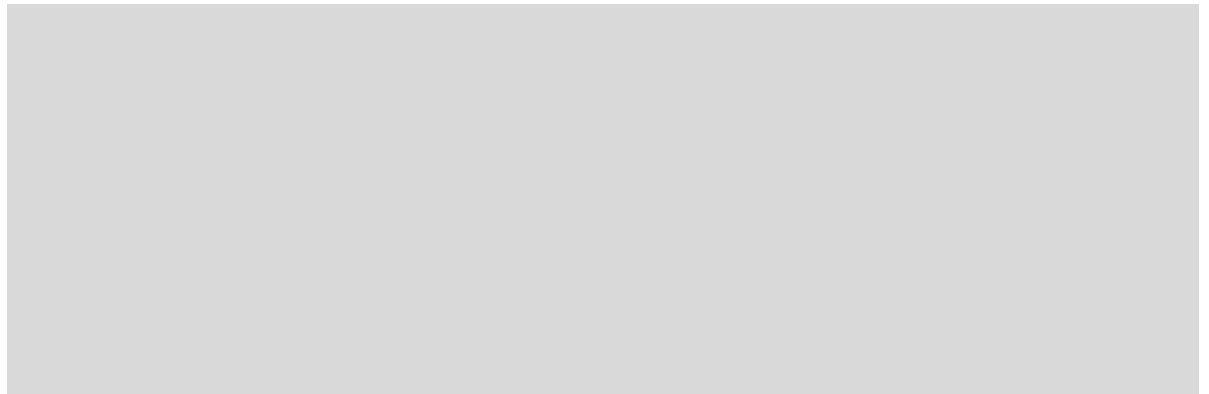
Citation/Evidence



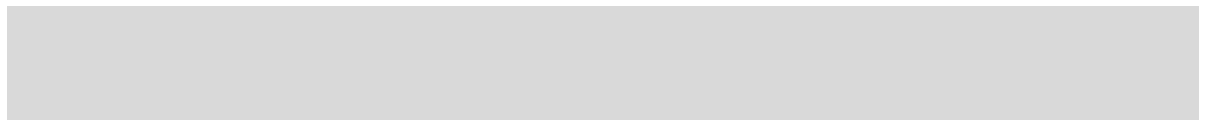
Source



Explaining the Citation/Counter-Claim



Transition/Wrap-Up

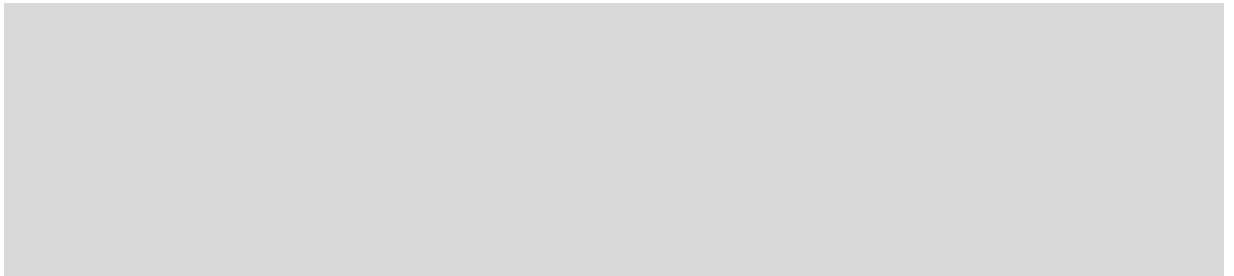


DRAFTING: CONCLUSION

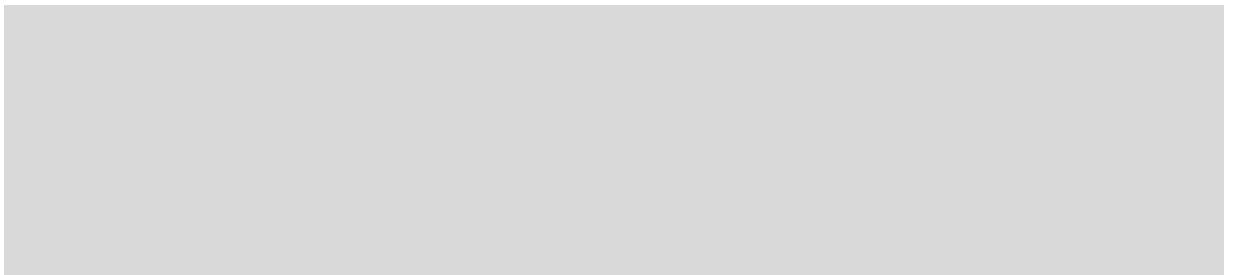
Finally, write your conclusion paragraph.

Conclusion Plan

Restate Claim Statement



Review Reasons/Evidence



Call-to-Action

