



an essay guide for
**COMPARE AND
CONTRAST WRITING**

A Writing Mindset Resource

www.writingmindset.org



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Mindset community!**



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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 compare and contrast essay takes two ideas or topics and explains their similarities and differences. "Compare" focuses on the similarities. "Contrast" focuses on the differences. Your task is to write a compare and contrast 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
- 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, serving as a margin. To the right of this line are 20 horizontal black lines for writing the letter's content.

Sincerely,

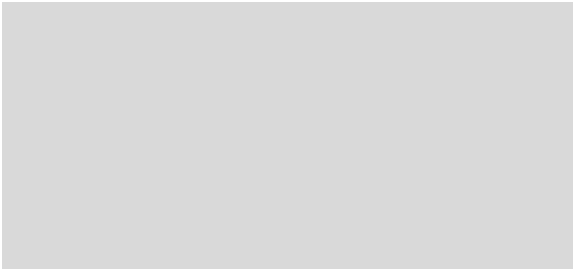
ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

Assignment Overview

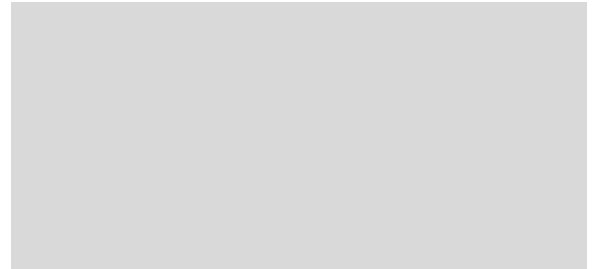
Description/Purpose



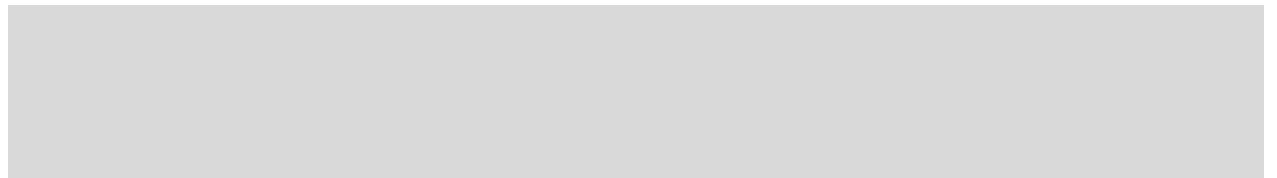
Role



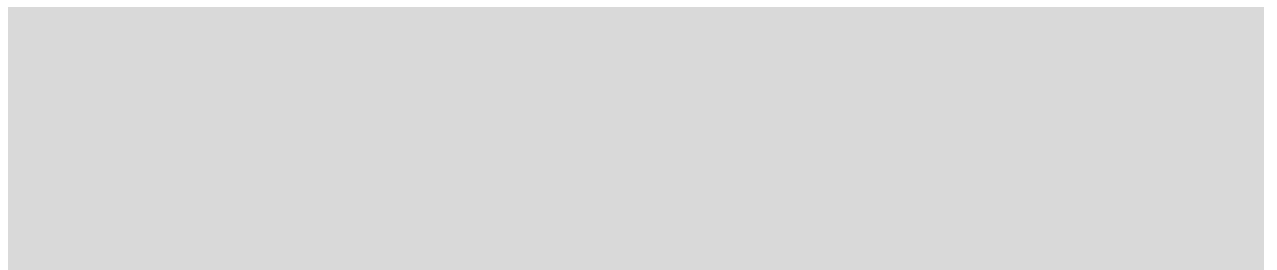
Audience



Grading Criteria



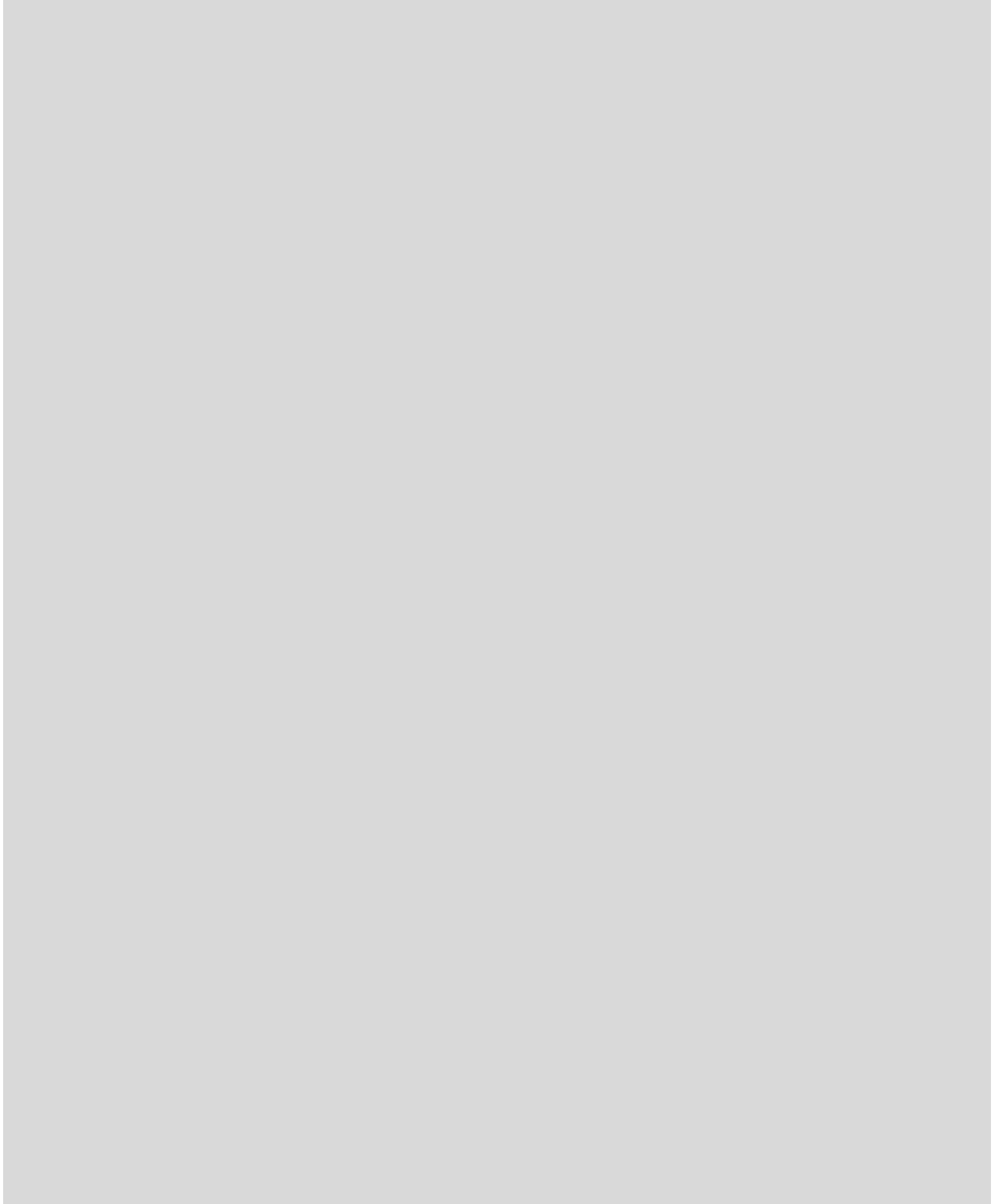
Steps/Due Dates



ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

Assignment Overview Visual Notes

Flow Map:



SAMPLE ESSAYS

>> *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

1

2

TOPIC SELECTION

>> *WRITING TIP!*

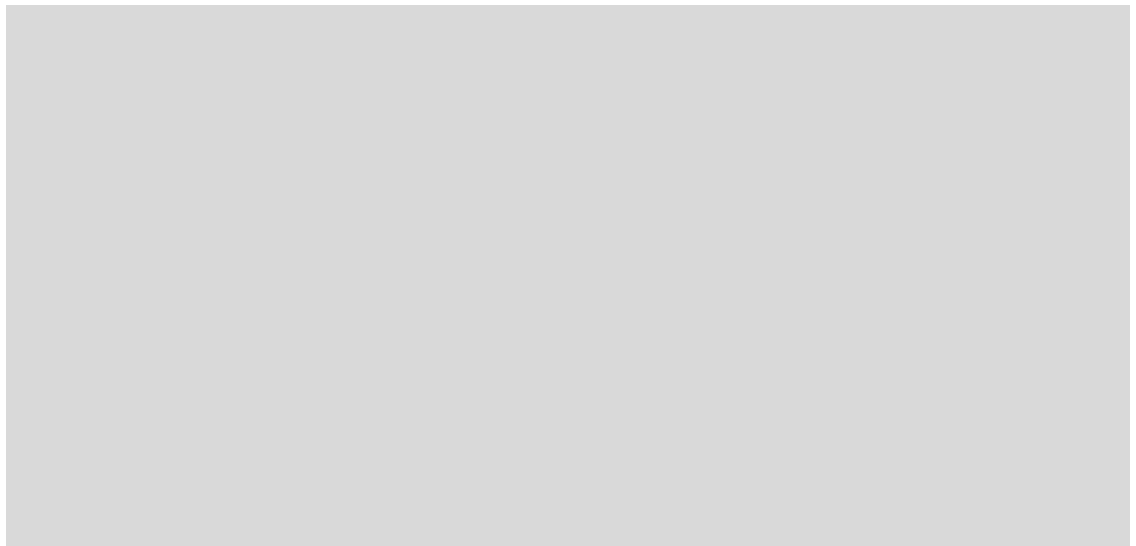
What about these two topics is interesting? What evidence or facts can you provide for both sides?

Topic Selection

TWO SIDES

A large, solid gray rectangular area intended for students to write their topic selection.

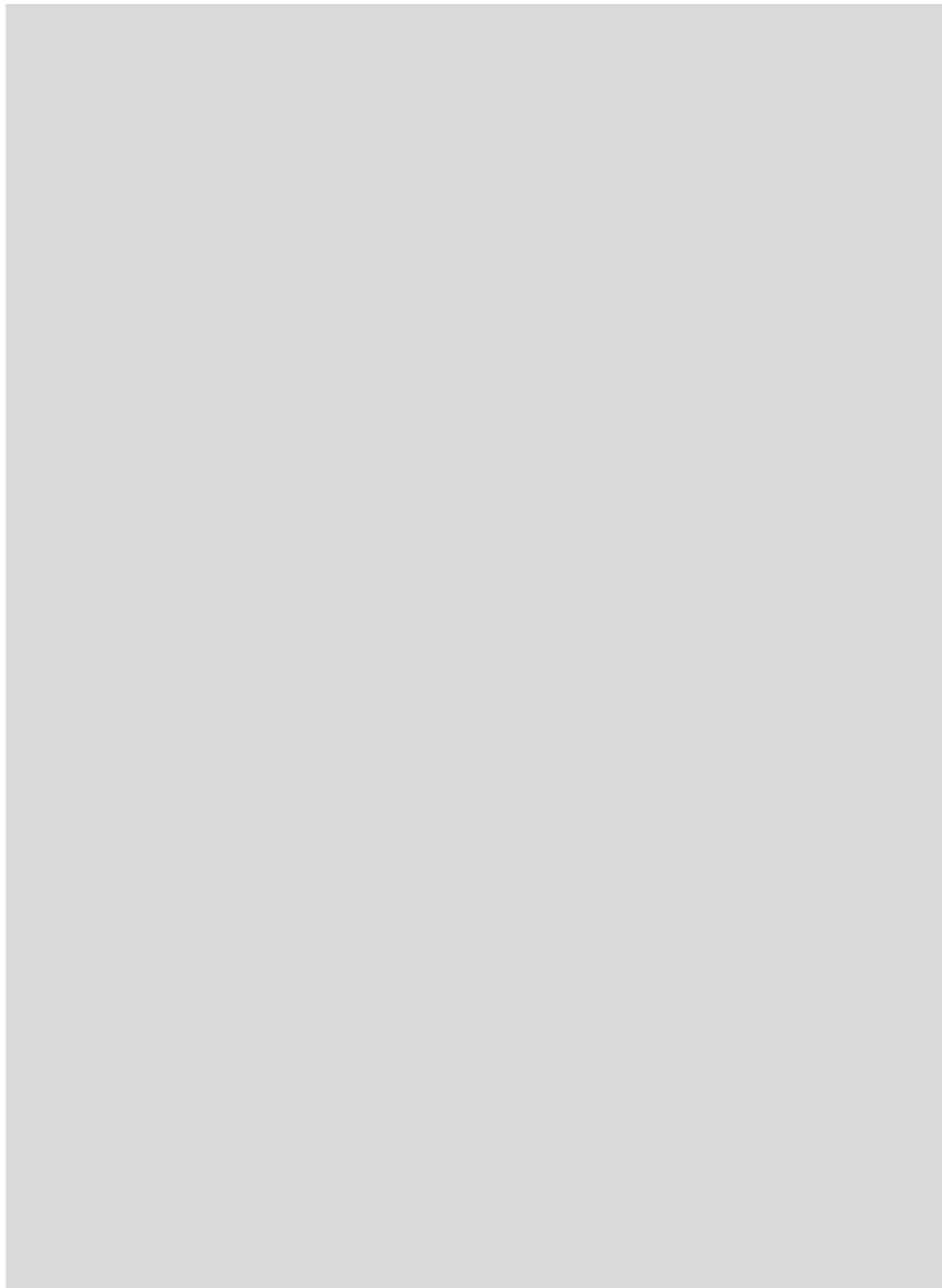
Rationale for Side Chosen

A large, solid gray rectangular area intended for students to write their rationale for the side they have chosen.

Notes for Your Writing

CLAIM STATEMENT BRAINSTORM

Claim Statement Brainstorm

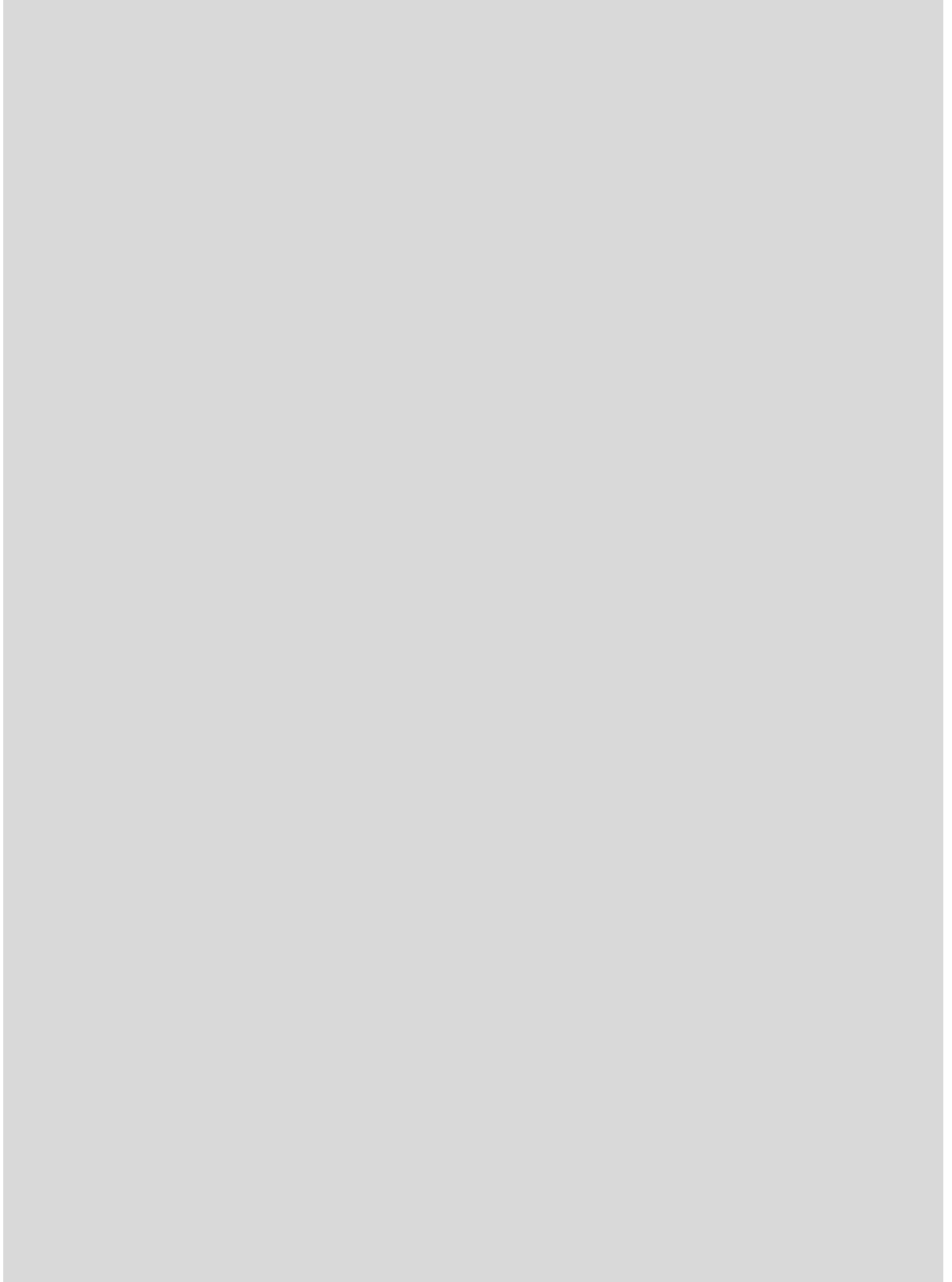


>> *WRITING TIP!*

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

HOOKS/LEADS/OPENING LINES

>> **WRITING TIP!**

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

Notes on Hook/Leads/Opening Lines

Types/Examples

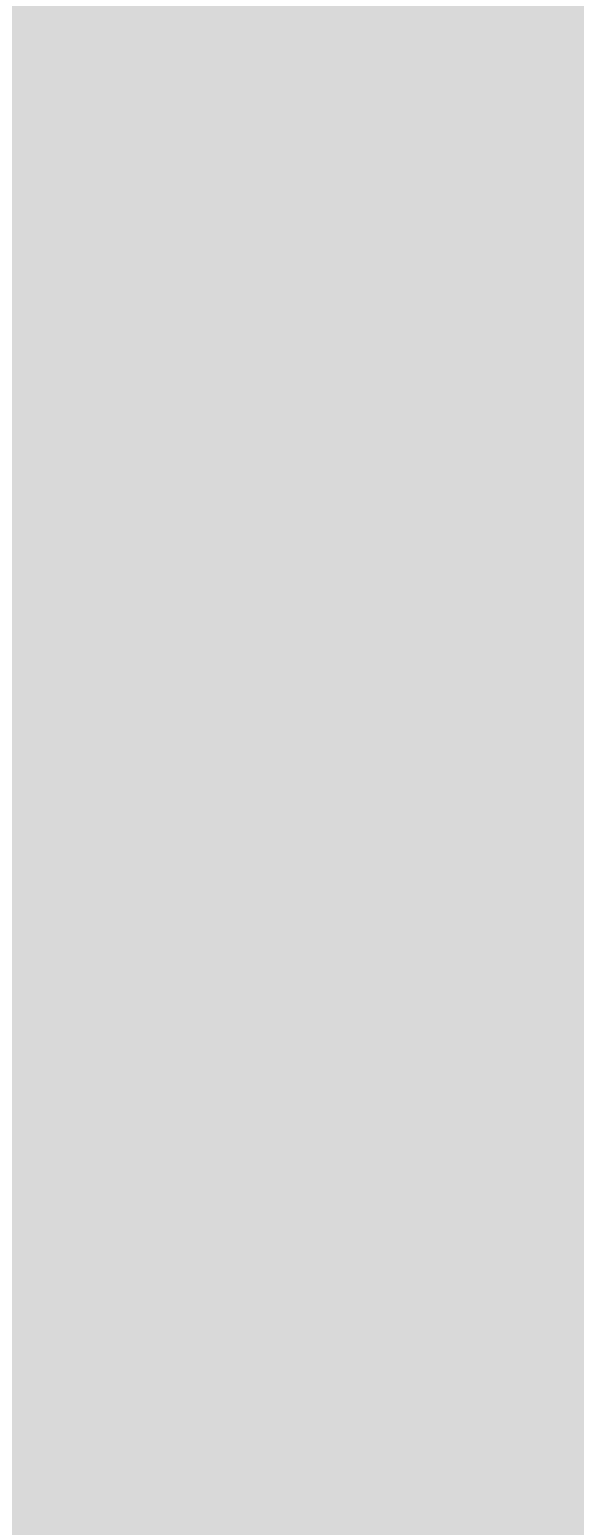
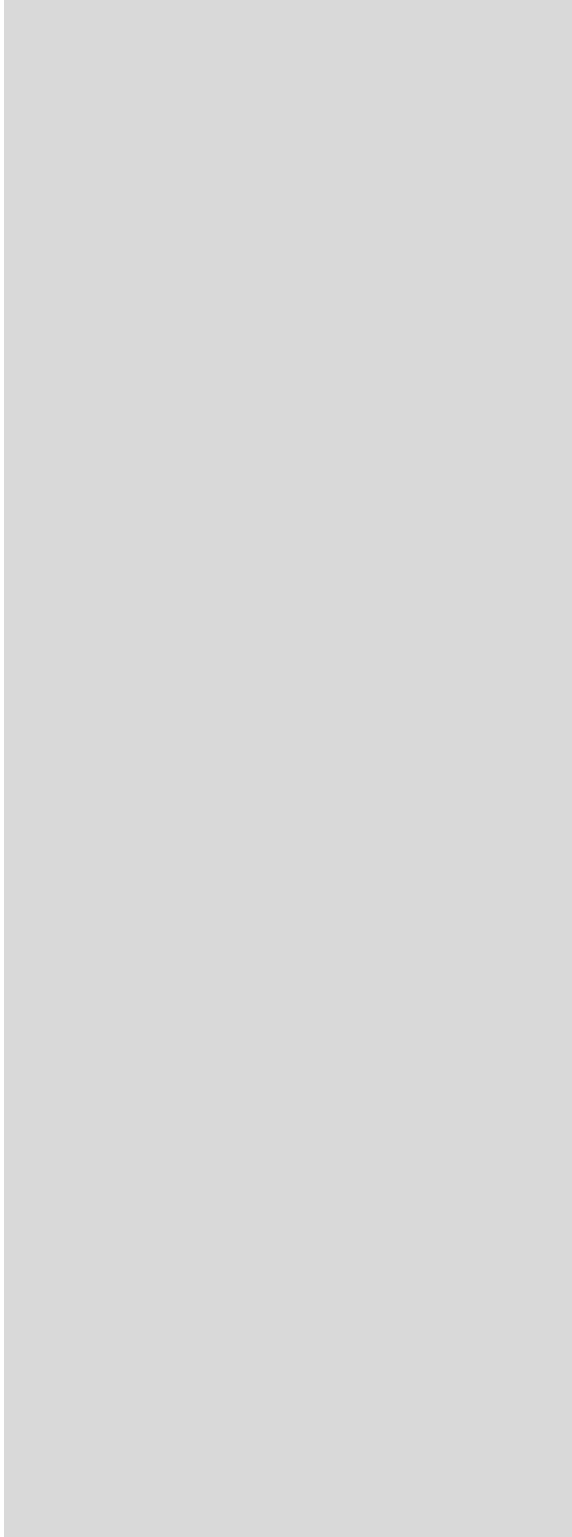
Brainstorm

INTRODUCTION DRAFTING

>> *WRITING TIP!*

What is the summary of how the two sides compare or contrast? This part should provide introduction to purpose for your essay.

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: SETUP CHOICES

>> *WRITING TIP!*

Do you group things in your mind by points/reasons or by general topics/ideas? Choose the method of organization that makes the most sense in your mind.

Notes on Body Paragraph Setup

BLOCK METHOD



BODY PARAGRAPHS: SETUP CHOICES

>> *WRITING TIP!*

Do you group things in your mind by points/reasons or by general topics/ideas? Choose the method of organization that makes the most sense in your mind.

Notes on Body Paragraph Setup

POINT-BY-POINT METHOD



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

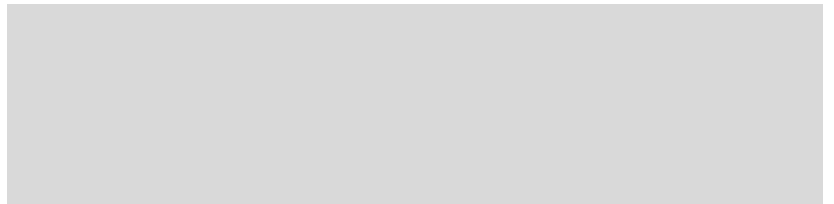
What is a Topic Sentence?



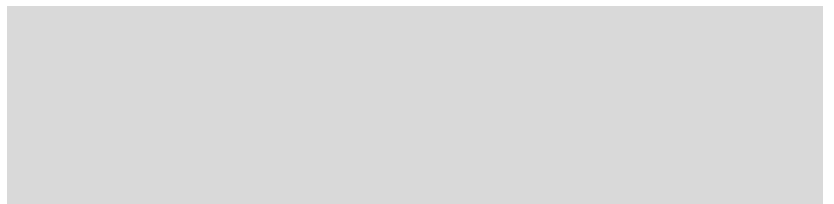
Topic Sentence Examples



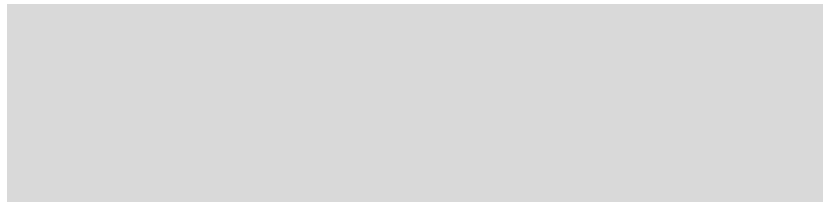
Reason 1



Reason 2



Reason 3



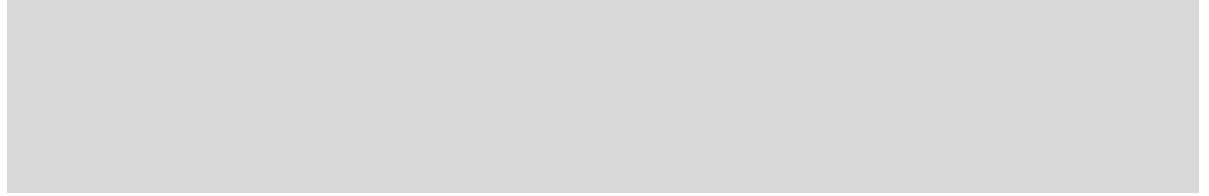
BODY PARAGRAPHS: EVIDENCE

>> *WRITING TIP!*

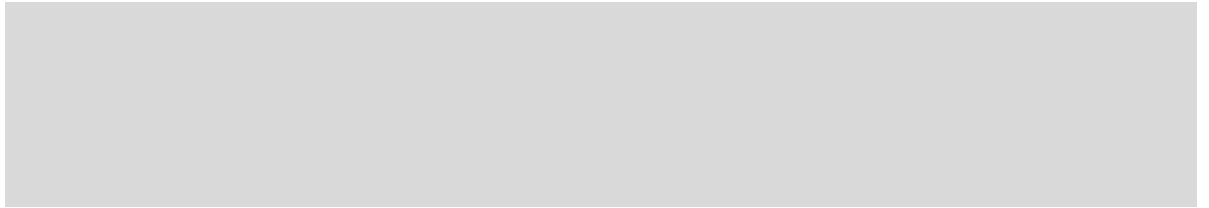
When putting evidence in your paper, be as specific as possible. Include details, page numbers, and the setup of the example. This will make your analysis stronger in your body paragraph.

How to Insert Evidence Notes


Introducing a Citation



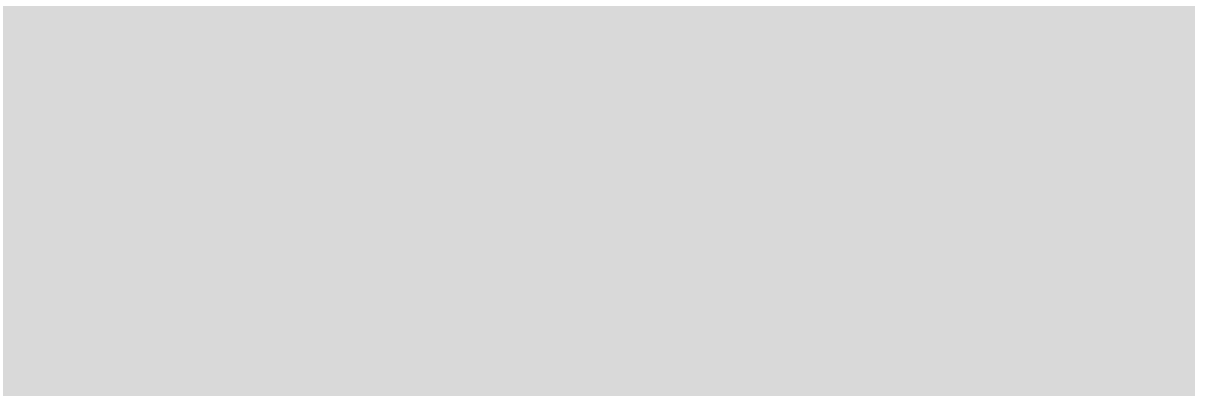
Citation/Evidence



Source



Explaining the Citation



BODY PARAGRAPHS: 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

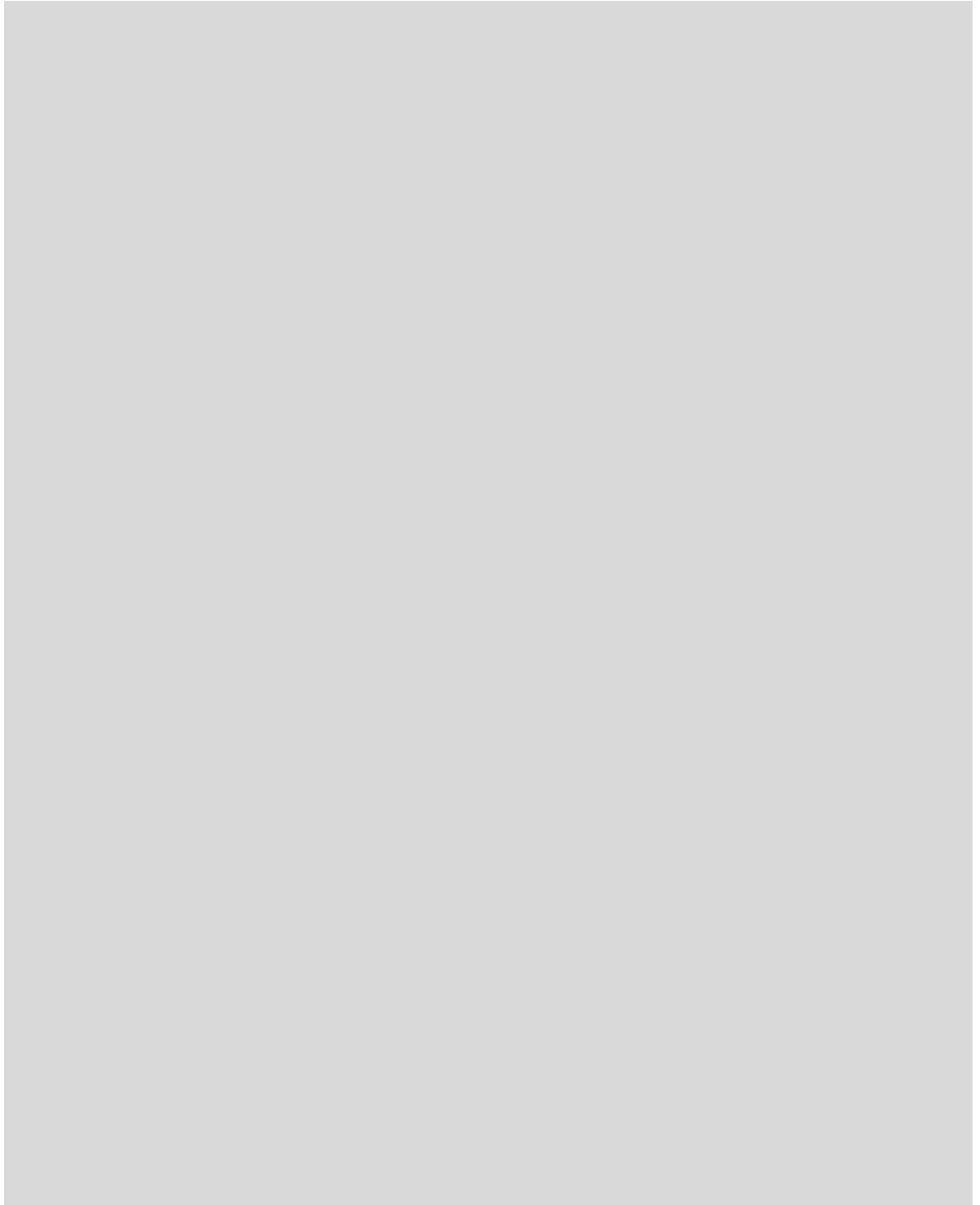
Brainstorm

>> ***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

First, write the draft of your introduction.

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

DRAFTING: BODY PARAGRAPHS

Next, write your body paragraphs.

Body Paragraph Plan

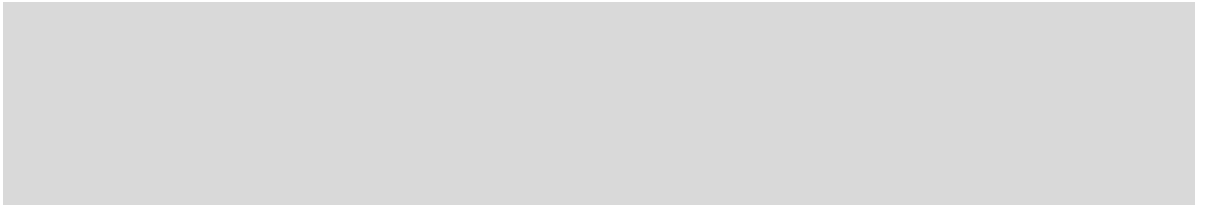
Topic Sentence



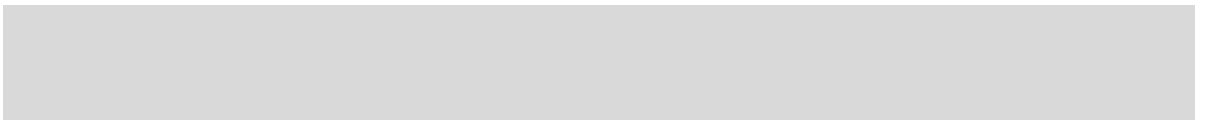
Introducing Evidence



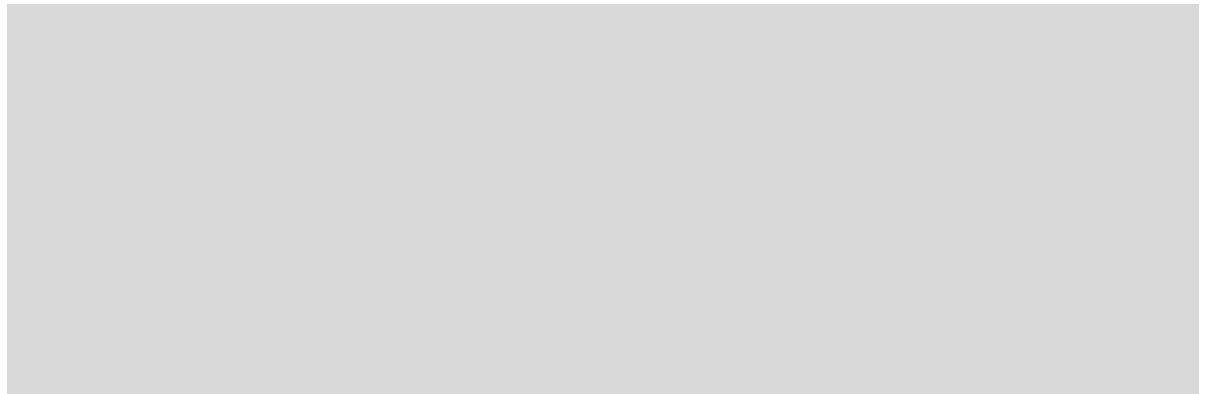
Citation/Evidence



Source



Explaining the Citation



Transition/Wrap-Up




DRAFTING: BODY PARAGRAPHS

Body Paragraph Plan

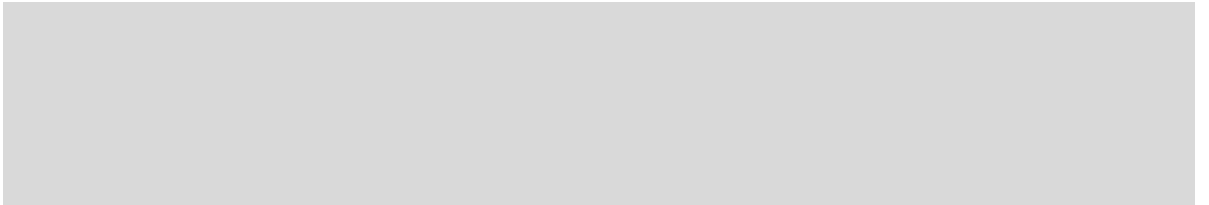
Topic Sentence



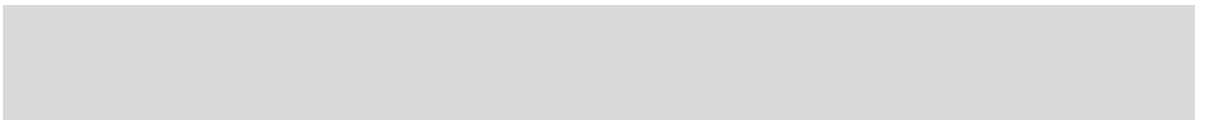
Introducing Evidence



Citation/Evidence



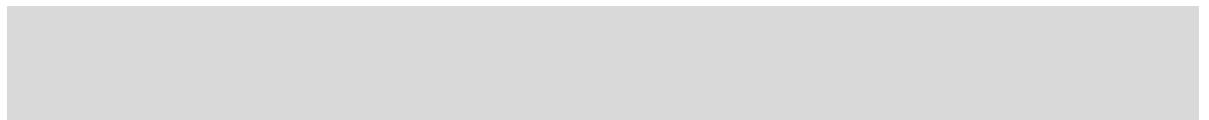
Source



Explaining the Citation



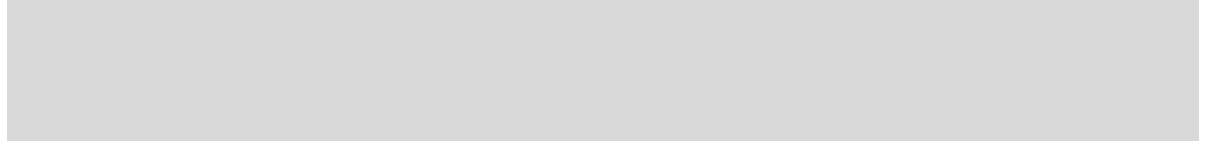
Transition/Wrap-Up



DRAFTING: BODY PARAGRAPHS

Body Paragraph Plan

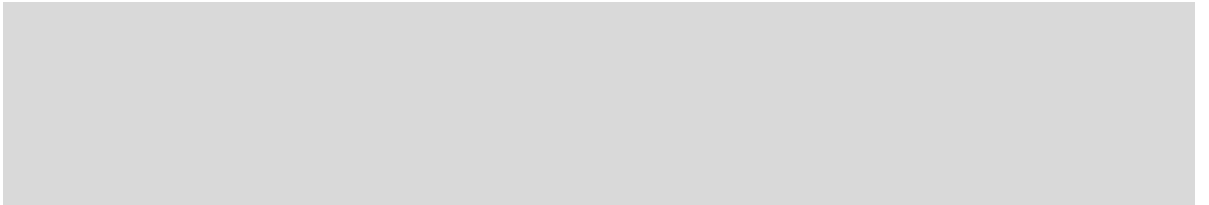
Topic Sentence



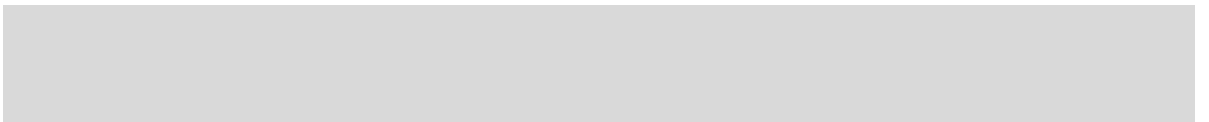
Introducing Evidence



Citation/Evidence



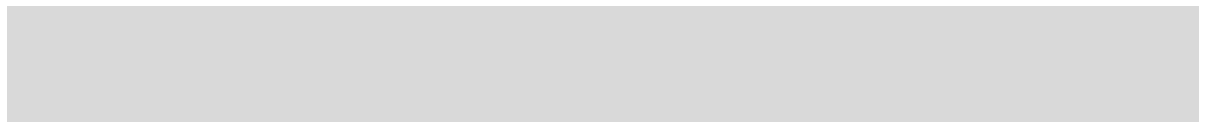
Source



Explaining the Citation



Transition/Wrap-Up

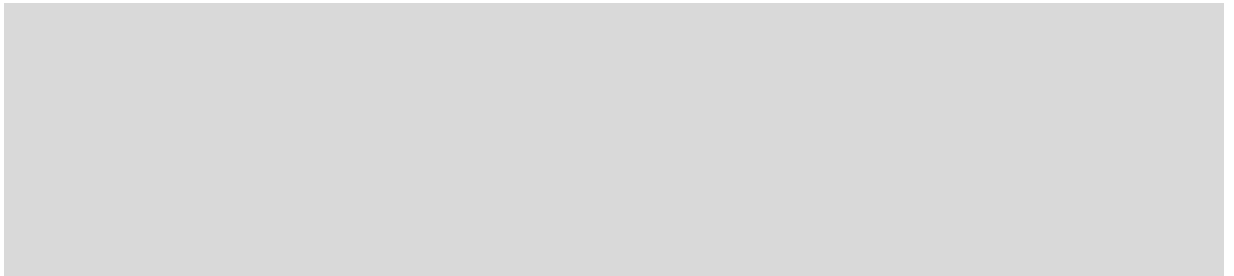


DRAFTING: CONCLUSION

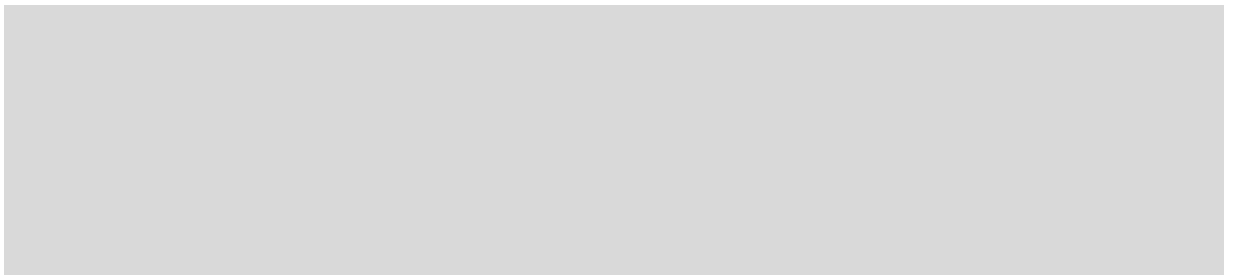
Finally, write the conclusion paragraph.

Conclusion Plan

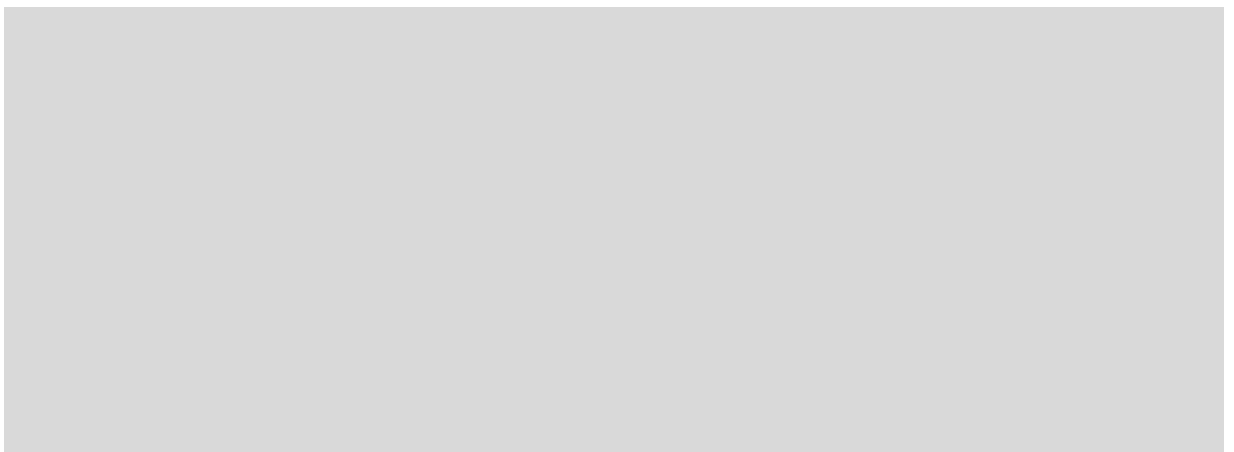
Restate Claim Statement

A large, solid grey rectangular box intended for writing the restated claim statement.

Review Reasons/Evidence

A large, solid grey rectangular box intended for writing the review of reasons and evidence.

Call-to-Action

A large, solid grey rectangular box intended for writing the call-to-action.