OPENING AND CLOSING ARGUMENTS

**HOW TO CRAFT INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION PARAGRAPHs IN AN ARGUMENT PAPER**

**Consider** the situation-Topic? Purpose? Audience? Intended action for my audience?

**Clarify** your thinking-what are you proving? Pro/con considerations of the issue, what are you trying to prove/assert/argue, who will be affected? Why do you fell the way you do?

**Construct** a Claim-a claim is your reasonable, defendable position or assertion statement or key point of your argument; grab the reader’s attention with one of the following opening strategies that best “fits” your claim, purpose, and audience.

**OPENING PARAGRAPH STRATEGIES** (examples needed)

* Quotation, smoothly integrated
* Acknowledgment of an opinion opposite to the one you will defend
* Short anecdote or narrative
* Analogy
* Specific example or description
* Personal experience
* Startling statement (often a paradox)
* Interesting fact (NOT dictionary definition)
* Pose a question.

**CLOSING PARAGRAPH STRATEGIES** (examples needed)

* **Confirm** your main point-finish argument by drawing your best thoughts together into a logical conclusion, make a final appeal to your audience and call them to act on your make point, use a command verb to make your call to actions as clear and compelling to your audience as possible.
* Summarize using different language than you used in the introduction and add additional insight arrived at as a result of your close examination in the paper. SYNETHESIZE—don’t just summarize. Show how the points you made and the evidence you use fit together to add up to something bigger than each individual item.
* Emphasize the importance of the implications the text reveals (“so-what” factor)
* Make a proposal of the logical and next step given the current understanding; a “CALL TO ACTION”
* End with a quotation that sums up and encapsulates the claim.
* Echo the beginning, showing a different scenario given the implications of your claim and evidence.
* Circle back to your opening strategy, using key words, phrases, and ideas to complete the circle.
* Envision the future given acceptance of your argument or findings.
* Suggest how the conclusion might impact or apply to a larger audience or setting.
* Don’t end with a question or introduce a new comment…it’s your job to ANSWER the questions and PROVE the assertions you present in your claim.

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