Opening strategies: SAMPLES

**Quote:** “Fair is foul and foul is fair, hover through the fog and filthy air…” Indeed, into the air, Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* suspends the possibility that Macbeth’s vision of himself as king—while being a prophetic and juicy idea—may, in reality, be a self-destructive delusion.

**Opposite opinion:** Many Americans believe that going to war with Iraq in 2003 was a moral obligation to free the Iraqis from oppression; however, this essay will explore how oil, money, and power, more than altruistic duty, incentivized the declaration of war.

**Analogy/Anecdotal:** Like moonlight filtering through ocean waves— like brooding prisms, Golding’s *Lord of the Flies* gives transparency to the frightening, organic evil swimming in the human psyche.

**Specific example:** As sweet as it may seem when Angel Clare calls Tess his “Artemis,” these flatteries forecast what Hardy later reveals as the terrible consequences of Romantic Idealism.

**Personal experience:** Stumbling towards me in the darkness, the homeless man begged through twisted, toothless lips for money. Uncomfortably, I reached for my wallet, realizing that more unnerving than his artless, groveling petition, would be for me to think I am better than he and that I somehow deserve the possessions I own.

**Startling statement:** I hate puppies. I shrug off sunshine. I loathe symmetry. To me, beautiful things, while pleasing to the senses, do not emotionally move me the way broken, ugly, heart-breaking things do.

**Interesting fact:** In Latin, the word “Philosophy” actually denotes the Love of Wisdom, which leads one to believe that philosophers are more than just know-it-alls, but passionate learners.

**Rhetorical Question:** Did Angel truly Love Tess, or does Hardy’s text reveal the tragic tendency of people to pursue an illusion of perfection rather than embrace the imperfect but sweet realities.