**Opening and Closing**

*Lead your research essay with your best punch. Make your opening* ***so strong*** *your reader feels* ***compelled*** *to continue. Make your closing so* ***memorable*** *your reader can’t forget it. Because readers pay special attention to openings and closings, make these sections work for you.*

*Start with a title and lead paragraph that grab readers’ attention and alert them to what is to come. End with closings that sum up and reinforce where readers have been. You may want to write more than one opening and closing and then ask your peer conference partner to give feedback about their preference and why they have that preference.*

| **Opening Strategies** | **Closing Strategies** |
| --- | --- |
| Provide a related anecdote.  Start with a sensory detail.  Introduce a related quotation.  Shock readers with a statistic.  Ask a rhetorical question.  Present the chronology of the issue.  End with your thesis (research question  or answer to your research question) | Provide the answer to your research question—  (re-state your thesis).  Return to the scene set by the opening.  Resolve the problem you have explored.  Make a recommendation or a call to action.  Speculate about the future with regard to the issue.  Leave readers with an insightful thought to ponder. |