

Openings and Endings

Name: _____

An opening has to make the reader want the next sentence. An ending has to leave them with something. Neither should announce itself.

Weak opening: "In this essay I am going to talk about why school should start later."

Stronger: "At 8:30 on a Tuesday morning, roughly a third of my class is asleep with their eyes open."

1. Why is the second opening better? Give two reasons.

2. Write a strong opening for an essay about a rule you would change.

3. Write an ending for the same essay. Do not start it with "In conclusion".

4. Rewrite this weak opening so it shows instead of announcing: "This report is about polar bears."

Openings and Endings — Answer Key

1. Answers will vary. It shows rather than announces; it uses a specific detail (8:30, a third of the class) instead of naming the topic; it makes the reader curious.

2-3. Answers will vary. A strong ending adds a thought rather than listing what was already said.