

Open with an **unusual detail**:

Manitoba, because of its cold climate, is not thought of as a great place to be a reptile. *Actually, it has the largest seasonal congregation of garter snakes in the world.*

Open with a **strong statement**:

Cigarettes are the number one cause of lighter sales in Canada.

Open with a **quotation**:

Elbert Hubbard once said, "Truth is stronger than fiction."

Open with a **question**:

Have you ever considered how many books we'd read if it were not for television?

Open with an **exaggeration** or **outrageous statement**:

The whole world watched as the comet flew overhead.

Open with an **anecdote (short story)**:

Tell a story that relates to your topic and proves a point.

Use a **SURPRISING FACT**:

The pentagon has twice as many bathrooms as are necessary. The famous government building was constructed in the 1940's, when segregation laws required that separate bathrooms be installed for people of African descent. This building isn't the only American Icon that harkens back to this embarrassing and hurtful time in our history. Across the United States there are many examples of leftover laws and customs that reflect the racism that once permeated American society.

Use **HUMOR**:

When my older brother substituted fresh eggs for our hard-boiled Easter eggs, he didn't realize our father would take the first crack at hiding them. My brother's holiday ended early that particular day in 1991, but the rest of the family enjoyed the warm April weather, outside on the lawn, until late into the evening. Perhaps it was the warmth of the day and the joy of eating Easter roast while Tommy contemplated his actions that make my memories of Easter so sweet. Whatever the true reason, the fact is that my favorite holiday of the year is Easter Sunday.

Use a **QUOTATION**:

Hillary Rodham Clinton once said that "There cannot be true democracy unless women's voices are heard." In 2006, when Nancy Pelosi became the nation's first female Speaker of the House, on e woman's voice rang out clear. With this development, democracy grew to its truest level ever in terms of women's equality. The historical event also paved the way for Senator Clinton as she armed her own vocal chords in preparation for a presidential race.

Use a **SHOCKING STATEMENT** or an **IMPORTANT STATISTIC**:

Have a minute? Good. Because that may be all it takes to save the life of a child—your child. Accidents kill nearly 8000 children under age 15 each year. And for every fatality, 42 more children are admitted to hospitals for treatment. Yet such deaths and injuries can be avoided through these easy steps parents can take right now. You don't have a minute to lose.

Who in their right mind thought that high school students should get up in the dark when their natural rhythm is just the opposite? Who in their right mind would put the most inexperienced drivers on the road before the sun is even up? What parents in their right minds would sign up for a morning flight 180 days a year? What teacher in his or her right mind would want to motivate a somnambulant first period class? Only someone who is actually in their right mind would move the start time of high school to a sensible 10am.

The majority of high schools have kept a starting time that was begun in the 1920's when students needed to get back to their farms to tend to chores. This means that class still starts at 7:30am, which current research proves is the worst time for the teen mind. Why then do we continue to use a system that we know doesn't work well for the very students that the school is trying to teach? To ensure student success, we must change our schedule to start school at 10am.

It is 5:45am. Time to get up. "Mom, just a little longer," I beg. Six o'clock rolls around; time to get up. "Ok Mom, I am getting up," I say as my eyes drift back shut. It is now 6:25 and I spring up out of bed and try to get ready in time to leave a 7:00. Skipping breakfast, a mistake I will regret later, this is my typical morning. So, as a high school student I know the concerns that people have expressed about the starting time for school. School starts too early and I agree it should be started later and held an equal time longer.

Today the cell phone is considered a prerequisite for becoming a teenager. The sound of a ring or a buzz has become normal and is often dismissed as nothing. Some schools however are taking a stand against the wireless device. Schools in New York often use metal detectors not only to catch knives and guns but also cell phones. The cell phone has had nothing but a bad influence in schools because many students use them to cheat on tests, text during class, or take inappropriate pictures in the locker room.

The class is silently taking a test and every student is concentrating for the last few precious moments. Suddenly the theme song from the O.C. comes on. Every child's head is turned to the noise; the blushing student says sorry and hurriedly turns his phone to vibrate. The teacher then collects the papers even though many have blanks at the bottom. Allowing cell phones in schools is just another nuisance many students would love to do without.

Cell phones have become more and more frequently used in our modern and technologically advanced lives. Many people, mostly men and women from older generations, become quite annoyed when someone whips out their cell phone in a public place or right in the middle of a personal conversation. But when cell phones are used at appropriate times and for appropriate purposes, they make our lives so much more convenient. Cell phones should be left to use in the hands of Lawrence Public school students during school under the right guidelines. Cell phones provide easy communication between students in making after school arrangements and for medical and safety purposes.

"Ring! Ring!" Suzy Sophomore reaches into her purse to find her pink Razor. "Goodness, I'm so sorry; I thought I turned this thing off." Everyone's eyes divert to Suzy as some of the other students snicker and Mr. Nelson rolls his eyes, waiting impatiently. Mr. Nelson casually strides over to Suzy's desk and takes away the phone for the rest of the period. This has happened twice today in his class, and he is becoming quite agitated for this interruption during his lesson. Instances such as these occur frequently in Lawrence Public Schools. Having a "No cell phone on school grounds" policy would prevent these occurrences and would benefit students and teachers greatly.