GOOD OPENING LEADS

1. **Summary** - lots of facts answering the 5 W’s: who, what, where, when and why.

*Example*- By practicing four hours a day for the past eight years on his homemade court on Hampton Drive, senior Robert Edwards breezed by the competition at the state tennis finals Friday in Chicago, defeating Buford’s Mark Willis 6-1, 6-2, and making him the first Illinois state tennis champion to go undefeated during all four years of varsity competition.

1. **Question** - ask a thought-provoking question then use it to lead into the rest of the story.

*Example* - Did you really ever want to work the late night shift at McDonald’s? Most students don’t, but Ashley Sadler certainly does.

1. **Direct Quote** - directly quote someone

*Example* - “I just couldn’t believe the support I got from my friends. They were so compassionate and caring when they found out my parents were being sent off to fight in Kosovo.”

1. **First Person Point of View** - writer injected into the story, but moves quickly to the topic so as to not focus too much on the writer.

*Example* - As I walked into the new principal’s office, I was taken aback by the beautiful photographs on the wall behind her desk of mountain streams, giant pine trees, flower dotted meadows, and exploding 50-foot geysers.

1. **Alliteration** - using a repetition of consonant sounds

*Example* - Freshmen Felix Feller felt funny, but he didn’t fret about fainting as he dissected the frog. Well, not until after he awoke from his short stint on the biology room floor.

1. **Shocking or Striking statement** - throw the reader off guard and catch attention dramatically

*Example* - Three dozen Madison students were killed today. Luckily it was only a simulation game created by Social Studies teacher Nick Ashton to demonstrate the brutality of an air raid during the Korean War.

1. **Contrast** - look for unusual or unique differences

*Example* - At age 11, Elizabeth Christy’s doctor told her she would never walk again. Yesterday, just six years after her diagnosis, she won the Indiana High School State Girls’ Cross-Country Championship.

1. **Historical Reference** - use a reference most people would know

*Example* - Just as Paul Revere galloped around the New England countryside spreading the alarm ‘the British are coming,’ History teacher Austin Roberts animatedly runs around the room shouting, ‘you must learn your basic freedoms, you MUST learn what’s in the constitution!’

1. **Single Word(s)** - one or a few strong summary words

*Example* - (for a feature on blood drive) Blood, Orange Juice, and life.

1. **Description** - use lots of details

*Example* - Although it took time ( three weeks ), lots of bodies ( 100 seniors and a few assisting teachers), plenty of cheap resources ( 800 rolls of borrowed toilet paper ), and a little bit of spare pocket change ($97.86), the building of the senior Homecoming float proved more than a worthwhile endeavor, according to Susan Benjamin, senior class president.

1. **Narrative / Anecdotal** - story-telling style that helps relate abstract things to real or familiar things

*Example* - Her ballet teacher got Nicole Ashton, Most Valuable Player for the girls’ soccer team, interested in going out for the team last year by telling her all the running she could do on the field might translate into stronger muscles for her dancing.

1. **Metaphor** - comparing two unlike things to help illustrate a point

*Example* - the new sophomore class president is a roaring avalanche when it comes to taking charge and getting things done.

1. **Simile** - comparing two unlike things to help illustrate a point, using the words ‘like’ or ‘as’

Example - The new sophomore class president is like a rainy day during the hot month of July: usually refreshing and almost always appreciated.