

To Promise or Not to Promise

A “Promise” opening sentence is more than simply a statement of intent. It is one sentence in length and is used to state your case. You’re taking a CONFIDENT stand when you create a promise to be used in a structured paragraph! A promise can be controversial. It usually encourages people to take one side or another.

Some characteristics of good promises:

- 1. Clear statement of intent/stand on an issue.*
- 2. Confident sounding; no “I think” or “Today I will” etc.*
- 3. One sentence in length*
- 4. Words (vivid) are chosen to convey meaning and intent*
- 5. Grabs your attention*

Part I: Which opening sentences are “promises”? (student samples)

- _____ 1. The eagle is the boldest animal in the bird family
- _____ 2. Today I will describe how the rainforest is being depleted by industrial corporations.
- _____ 3. The book I read was called “The Day the Earth Stood Still”.
- _____ 4. Survivors of war never escape from their emotional scars.
- _____ 5. Teenagers do not have the right to date before the age of eighteen.
- _____ 6. To me, a survivor is one who, with courage and hope, lives through something.
- _____ 7. I think a survivor is one that beats the odds.
- _____ 8. iLab is a place where students learn, discover and prepare for the future.
- _____ 9. I think that kids who smoke have poor self-confidence.
- _____ 10. War is hell.

Challenge Part II:

1. Create 5 of your own promises dealing with a topic of your choice.

OR

2. Change the sentences above that were NOT promises into....well....promises!