

JENNIFER SERRAVALLO

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*The*

# Writing Strategies *Book*

YOUR **EVERYTHING GUIDE** TO  
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*Credits continue on page 410.*

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## 3.38 Start with an Outlandish Claim

**Strategy** Start a notebook entry with a strong claim. Feel free to be outlandish, and use strong words and phrases such as *always*, *no one*, *everyone*, *never*, or *for sure*. Use that claim as a springboard to start freewriting, and see where your pencil takes you!

**Teaching Tip** To aid in freewriting, you may remind students of sentence starters that help to keep conversation going, and ask them to use the sentence starters to bridge between one idea and another on the page. Phrases such as “I’m not sure, but maybe . . .” or “On the other hand . . .” or “Some people think . . . But I think . . .”

### Prompts


- Make that claim stronger—use a word like *everyone*, *for sure*, *never*.
- It’s OK if you don’t believe it 100 percent. Start with the claim and see where it takes you.
- Start freewriting.
- Write, “On the other hand . . .” and explore where that takes you.
- Try to write without judging yourself. Just keep your pen moving.

Start with an

# Outlandish Claim

**1 Start with a strong claim.**

Instead of demanding kids go to bed by 8pm, kids should stay up as late as they want.



**2 Use strong words or phrases: always, no one, everyone, never**

Kids are always sent to bed early with too much energy. Kids should be able to choose their bedtime.

**3 Use the claim as a springboard and freewrite.**

My mom sends me to bed at 8 pm, but I’m not tired. I try to fall asleep, but I have too much energy...

Tiffany Fuller

*Who is this for?*

LEVELS

4–8

GENRES / TEXT TYPES

opinion/persuasive, memoir

PROCESS

generating and collecting



**Hat Tip:** *The Journey Is Everything: Teaching Essays That Students Want to Write for People Who Want to Read Them* (Bomer 2016)