Write your opening:

• Your opening paragraph should include three things:

  1) **Grabber- use your sensory tree map**
     - Sound effect – “Screech!” screamed the tires from the blue Mustang as it slammed to a stop at the curb of our park.
     - Character thoughts – We picked-up ‘THEIR’ girls, Socs girls, and they were here to make us pay.
     - Character actions – Stumbling towards us with a definite purpose, I shot my eyes to “The Rings” and knew trouble was ahead.
     - Dialogue – “Even if we run, Johnny, there’s five of ‘em and only two of us,” Pony sulked, “they’d catch us before . . .” I checked my pocket, “I’ve got my blade, Pony. This park is our territory. Always has been, always will be.”
     - Describe the setting – Howling winds and a whining stray dog nestled against the rusty playset were interrupted by five leather jackets and too much cologne.

  2) **Background information:** reader needs to understand why Johnny fears Bob and explain why the Socs are coming after Johnny and Ponyboy

  3) **Hint of what is to come** – don’t be a spoiler!
We picked-up ‘THEIR’ girls, Socs girls, and they were here to make us pay.

Before today, I thought we would be able to ride out the hatred between our classes. That was before intoxicated Bob and his gang decided they wanted to jump us. Just four months ago, I was left lifeless after Bob’s rings ripped and tore through me. I promised to kill the next person who jumped me; I haven’t forgotten. It won’t be Pony and it won’t be me on the ground tonight.
“Bub bub bub bub bub bub,” the rumble of the blue Mustang reverberated through the desolate park, now absent from laughing children and star-crossed lovers. Being in our neighborhood this time of night could mean only one thing: they were looking for Pony and I. We would surely pay for being with “their” girls tonight. Four months ago they had had their way with me. This time, I refused to be their victim . . .
Begin writing your story.