SEQUENCE FOR WRITING

Create as many boxes as you have attempts to solve the problem (2-3)

- Takes the journal home
- Given a key to something important
- Finds a box with a ring in it
- Ring reveals the writing within the journal

Add information to each box – Do not write in complete sentences.
STEP 4: WRITE YOUR OPENING

**Your opening paragraph should include three things:**

1) **Grabber**
   - **Sound effect** – “**Crunch, crunch, crunch,**” the snow buckled under my weight with each step I took.
   - **Character thoughts** – **Oh, how I miss feeling the warmth of the sun on my face.**
   - **Character actions** – **Bundled within layers of winter clothing,** **Samantha clutched the hidden journal close to her heart.**
   - **Dialogue** – **“Oh, sun, where have you gone? Will you ever come back to us?”**
   - **Describe the setting** – winter has not ended for three years. Day after day, I await brightness and warmth from the sun, but it never comes.

   • **Character description, Statement, Question**

2) **Background information**: who? **Did what? When?**

3) what is the problem/situation?
OPENING:

- **Your opening paragraph should include three things:**
  - **1) Grabber**
    - **Sound effect** – “Crunch, crunch, crunch,” the snow buckled under my weight with each step I took.
    - **Character thoughts** – Oh, how I miss feeling the warmth of the sun on my face.
    - **Character actions** – bundled within layers of winter clothing, Samantha clutched the hidden journal close to her heart.
    - **Dialogue** – “oh, sun, where have you gone? Will you ever come back to us?”
  - **Describe the setting** – winter has not ended for three years. Day after day, I await brightness and warmth from the sun, but it never comes.
  - **Character description, statement, question**

2) **Background information:** who? Did what? When?
3) **what is the problem/situation?**

- **Winter has not ended for three years. Day after day, I await brightness and warmth from the sun, but it never comes. The landscape has become a monotony of greys, whites, and sepias. The color from the past has become a distant memory, much like an aged old photograph that has become dirty with wear. Today, the snow felt especially wet and heavy, falling in large tufts around me. I could remember a time when I would have found this idyllic, but today it was just cold and wet and cumbersome. I couldn’t hear anything but the static in my head left over from the factory machines, and I felt nothing but the numbness of my hands – and the journal, the journal I had found tucked away in a corner of the train. I had an inkling it was somehow left for me, and I hurried to the safety of home where I could examine it discreetly.**
OPENING: Winter has not ended for three years. Day after day, I await brightness and warmth from the sun, but it never comes. The landscape has become a monotony of greys, whites, and sepias. The color of the past has become a distant memory, much like an aged old photograph that has become dirty with wear. Today, the snow felt especially wet and heavy, falling in large tufts around me. I could remember a time when I would have found this idyllic, but today it was just cold and wet and cumbersome. I couldn’t hear anything but the static in my head left over from the factory machines, and I felt nothing but the numbness of my hands – and the journal, the journal I had found tucked away in a corner of the train. I had an inkling it was somehow left for me, and I hurried to the safety of home where I could examine it discreetly.

Add details beneath each attempt to solve the problem.

Resolution/Solution/Closing

Keep your 5 Media Questions in mind as you brainstorm details:
✓ What were you doing?
✓ What were those around you doing?
✓ What were you thinking?
✓ How were you feeling?
✓ Describe the scene.
Are You Killing Your Story's Tension?

Tension: The anticipation of what will happen next in a story.

- Don't make things too easy for your hero.
- Let your hero struggle through obstacles and even lose battles.
- Don't let all of your characters get along all the time.
- Let your characters fight, dislike, and mistrust one another.
- Don't resolve all of your conflicts too early.
- Introduce new conflicts as others are resolved.

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**SEQUENCE FOR WRITING**

OPENING: Winter has not ended for three years. Day after day, I await brightness and warmth from the sun, but it never comes. The landscape has become a monotony of greys, whites, and sepia. The color of the past has become a distant memory, much like an aged old photograph that has become dirty with wear. Today, the snow felt especially wet and heavy, falling in large tufts around me. I could remember a time when I would have found this idyllic, but today it was just cold and wet and cumbersome. I couldn’t hear anything but the static in my head left over from the factory machines, and I felt nothing but the numbness of my hands – and the journal, the journal I had found tucked away in a corner of the train. I had an inkling it was somehow left for me, and I hurried to the safety of home where I could examine it discreetly.

Add details beneath each attempt to solve the problem.

- Takes the journal home
  - Goes to cupola - safe
  - Feels familiar
  - Worn initials on front
  - Finds note – last of 6
  - Samantha Stinson, 1916
  - Pages are blank

- Given a key to something important
  - Mealtime mandate
  - Town center
  - Changes - sameness
  - Old woman secretly gives key
  - Old key

- Finds a box w/a ring in it
  - Box in cupola
  - Footsteps leading from house
  - Key fits in box
  - Finds amethyst ring
  - Puts on ring – feels different

- Ring reveals the writing within the journal
  - Finds letter to her
  - Reads journal - discovers past
  - Sees light at family cemetery
  - Finds gravestone with her name on it