**OPENING PARAGRAPH FORMAT**

**(could be two or three sentences…NO MORE)**

**Begin your opening paragraph with an interesting fact, a quote, or a true/personal story that relates to your main point. Next, write your argument as a statement – not a question – because statements are stronger, [because] now tell us the first point you will prove in your paper, then tell us the second point you will make, [and] finally tell us the strongest point you will be making in your paper.**

**OPENING PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE**

**Across the United States, several major colleges are using graphic novels as required reading in their courses. Public libraries have reported an increase in graphic novel lending. And high schools are using graphic novels in their AP courses. Graphic novels should be allowed in school because they can persuade non-readers to read more books, build critical reading skills, and they can help struggling readers learn our language.**