**Common Core Writing Strand: The Research Paper**

Title:

Research Question (That is, what question are you answering in this research paper?):

# Introduction

Lead/attention-grabber (relevant quotation, definition, research question, etc.):

Thesis Statement (Claim):

# Counterargument (1 paragraph)

Transitional word or phrase to lead in to your counterargument:

Topic Sentence/Lead-in

Context of your source, including background information, explanation, or “setting the stage” for your evidence to be presented:

Quote/Paraphrase your source. Include citation information!

Commentary and analysis: How does this information support your counterargument?

Transition to next idea:

# Claim/ Reason/ Evidence (3 Paragraphs) Paragraph 1

Topic Sentence/Lead in:

Context of your source, including background information, explanation, or “setting the stage” for your evidence to be presented:

Quote/Paraphrase your source. Include citation information!

Commentary and analysis: How does this information support your claim?

NOTE: Please avoid the vague phrases, “This shows that…” or “This proves that…”

Transition to next idea:

# Paragraph 2

Topic Sentence/Lead in:

Context of your next source, including background information, explanation, or “setting the stage” for your evidence to be presented:

Quote/Paraphrase your next source. Include citation information!

Commentary and analysis: How does this information support your claim?

NOTE: Please avoid the vague phrases, “This shows that…” or “This proves that…”

Transition to next idea:

# Paragraph 3

Topic Sentence/Lead in:

Context of your source, including background information, explanation, or “setting the stage” for your evidence to be presented:

Quote/Paraphrase your source. Include citation information!

Commentary and analysis: How does this information support your claim?

NOTE: Please avoid the vague phrases, “This shows that…” or “This proves that…”

Transition to next idea:

# Conclusion

(DO NOT repeat, summarize, or restate here! You should ONLY be drawing conclusions about your research! Please do not restate your thesis.)