**Writing Problem-Solution Essays**

**Write the Lead Sentence**

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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

Write a different lead sentence for each strategy to capture the reader’s attention. Use the examples as inspiration.

1. Present a startling statistic.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 1 in 10 Americans had a mood disorder last year, and 21 percent will experience one during their lifetimes.

2. Open with an engaging quotation.

“I try not to worry about the future—so I take each day just one anxiety attack at a time.”

— Tom Wilson, American Cartoonist

3. Create an interesting scenario.

Imagine that your life had a movie soundtrack. Now imagine that it was the nerve-racking soundtrack to *Psycho*. That's what anxiety and depression feel like.

4. Focus on causes.

Adrenaline is great for fight-or-flight situations, when you need to energize muscles and put nerves on high alert. Adrenaline is less great when there's no threat, but you feel jittery and paranoid anyway, all the time.