I. **Laying the Groundwork**
   
   A. The topic in general
   
   B. What I mean by “life change”

II. **You and Life Change**
   
   A. What have you read that changed you?
   
   B. What does this tell you about how lives are changed?

III. **What Hinders Life Change?**

IV. **The Way Forward in Your Writing**
   
   A. Know yourself
B. Know your Christian worldview

C. Develop your reasoning skills—to change lives, you must learn how to change minds

D. Become a student of great writing and influential thinking

E. Understand your culture and what you face as a Christian

F. Choose a topic that matters to you and to your intended audience
   1. The value of a topic that is either controversial or seems settled but should not be
2. Do your homework

3. Find your focus

4. Develop a perspective, tone, or approach that differs from the usual fare
   a. Perspective
   
   b. Tone
   
   c. Approach

G. Address fundamental needs through felt needs first

H. Seek to persuade, not pounce or preach

I. Face difficult issues honestly, insightfully, and fairly
J. In your writing, strive for …

1. Connection over credentials (though these matter)

2. Clarity over cleverness

3. Accuracy over acceptance

4. Beauty of expression over dry narrative

5. Punch and passionate conviction over self-protection

6. Active voice over passive voice

7. Showing, not just telling