

Writing the Hook

An essay hook is the first several sentences of your essay. It serves as an introduction and works to grab the reader's attention. The first couple sentences will help your reader decide whether they want to continue reading your essay or not.

<u>Do Not:</u>	<u>Do:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Write in the first person● Address the reader directly "You", "us", "we"● Use a quotation to open your essay● Use a dictionary definition● Apologize. Never suggest that you don't know what you are talking about or that you're not enough of an expert in this matter than your opinion would matter. Avoid phrases like: In my [humble] opinion... I'm not sure about this, but....● Announce your intentions. Do not flatly announce what you are about to do in the essay. In this paper I will.... The purpose of this essay is to....● Use a question to begin your paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Use descriptive words. Creating a picture in the reader's mind can make him or her feel connected to your writing. Use words to describe the scene you are trying to create.● Leave it a mystery. Give your readers just enough to make them curious. Include a few details and leave the rest to their imaginations● Use an interesting fact or moment from the novel● Keep your hook connected to the topic you are writing on.

Think: What parts in the novel did you find interesting that you could draw on for your hook.

Now: Write your hook! Take several sentences to lead into the rest of the paragraph you've already written.