

# Writer's Notebook: Free write Friday

## Writing Introductions in an essay

Take notes on “hooks”

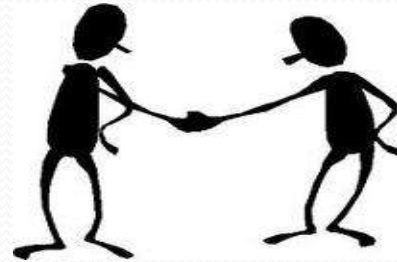
Write your own hooks for your  
prompts you composed.

Vocabulary Review: make  
flashcards, flip chart, etc...

# Introductions



**Have you ever introduced two people by just saying their names and then heard nothing but silence? If, however, you tell something about each person, you help draw them together.**



**Like a social introduction, an commanding introduction draws your readers into your paper.**

The way you introduce your paper will depend on the goal you want to achieve and the type of writing you are doing.

# Writing a strong opening

- Have a strong first sentence
- Use bold, precise, and stirring language
- Thoughtful
- It is not overly long
- Includes a thesis



# What goes in an introduction?

- Hook or Attention Grabber
- Comments, and Background
- Thesis Statement
  - Example: (**Hook**) Can you imagine how much a single day can cost if you live in Shibuya, Tokyo? (**BG and Comments**) Tokyo is one of the most expensive cities in the world. The prices of items in Tokyo are much higher than in other parts of Japan. Many people living in Tokyo, have a difficult time paying for their lifestyles. (**Thesis**) Tokyo, one of the most expensive cities in all the world, exceeds prices in other urban cities in the price of food and rent to even transportation.

# Examples of Hooks and Grabbers



# 1. Be clear and direct

- **Expository essays**
- **Research papers**
- **Editorial**
- A statement of the main point.
- When your main idea is original, you may choose to state it directly in your introduction
- Go from **general** to **specific**.

## 2. Appeal to the readers' senses

- Good for **descriptive essays**
- A vivid description
- Use specific adjectives
- Character sketches
- Use imagery





### 3. Get readers' attention

- An **expository** essay
- A **persuasive** essay
- A **research** paper
- A startling fact or statistic
- Make sure it is accurate
- It should help you make your main point.





## 4. Lure readers into story quickly

- For **short stories** or **personal narratives**
- Dialogue
  - “What do you mean I didn’t make it, I am the best one out here?”
- Start in action
  - “The knock at the door froze me to the sofa.”



# 5. Make readers wonder

- An **expository** essay
- A **persuasive** essay
- A **research** paper
- Use a question
- Define a conflict or problem
- You must answer or solve this question or conflict in your paper.
  - Ex: Have you every wondered how much money you can make working with computers?



## 6. Give your writing authority

- A quotation
  - “All animals are equal,” becomes the animal’s slogan in George Orwell’s novella, *Animal Farm*.....
- A **persuasive** essay
- An **expository** essay
- A **research** paper

Writing about literature.

**When writing about literature, you MUST introduce the story *and* author in your introduction.**



# What NOT to do in an Introductory paragraph

- **Apologize.** Never suggest that you don't know what you're talking about. Avoid phrases like, "In my opinion"....and "I am not sure about this..."
- **Do not flatly announce what you are about to do in an essay.** "In this essay I will..." or "The purpose of this essay is too...."
- **Use a dictionary or encyclopedia definition.**
- **Dilly-dally.** Get to it. Move confidently into your essay.

# Assignment

- **Using the prompts you created, write an attention grabber (hook) for all five.**
- **After writing the hook (attention grabber) label which one it is.**