



Using **HOOKS** for Introductions

All introductions matter - possibly more than any other part of your work - and these beginnings must HOOK or persuade your readers to pursue the rest of your essay or story. Here are some common ways to begin an essay:

1. An Interesting or Amazing Fact or Idea

Example: One of the most deadly disasters in modern history struck Thailand in December 2004 when a tsunami, a huge tidal wave, hit Thailand and southeast Asia killing almost 300,000 people.

2. A Non-Debatable Statement

Example: Every woman desires beautiful hair.

3. A Statistic

Example: Five out of six women prefer to wear high heels to work. Yet, new research by Harvard Medical School shows that women who wear heels are damaging more than just their feet.

4. A "Quote" (one by someone famous or make it up!)

Examples: *Albert Einstein believed that "once you know your limits, you can go beyond them."
*"Don't judge a person until you have walked a mile in his shoes!" urges the old saying. That old saying is still true today, yet many people do make snap judgments about others.

5. A Question

NEVER use YOU in the question! In addition, make sure question is at least 10 words long!

Example:

Feel tired, anxious, or stressed, longing for a relaxing vacation? Dream about living day after day with no alarm clock, no demands to be in a certain place at a certain time? Fantasize about not being told what to do every minute of the day? Answering yes to any of these questions makes one of a huge and highly stressed group of people in America. Who makes up this group? Students in America's high schools make it up. *As a group, high school students lead tremendously stressed filled lives. (Thesis in italics)*