

# **Hooks**

# **Writing Module**

  

# **Teacher Masters**

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# **TM#1: Engage Prior Knowledge— Silent Warm-Up**

**What do you already know about writing a good introduction for an essay?**

**What must a good introduction have?**

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# **TM#2: Effective Introductions**

## **Poster**

### **hook —**

interests your reader with a...

- thought-provoking observation
- question
- specific example
- quotation

**transition sentence(s) —**  
connects the hook to the thesis

**thesis statement —**  
explains the thesis, or your essay's main points

## **TM#3: Demonstrate—Model Introduction**

**The following is the introduction to a group of essays that debate whether middle schools should be separate schools or should be joined with elementary schools to form kindergarten to eighth-grade schools. It was written at the end of a school year.**

Many fifth graders have walked out the doors of their elementary schools for the last time, or will do so this week, starting new schools in the fall. The transition to middle school can be a blessing or a curse for these young children on the verge of becoming teenagers.

You don't have to read all the studies to know that the ages between 10 and 13 are socially awkward ones. But they are also important ones academically, crucial in determining college and career outcomes. Would these preteens be better off staying in an elementary school that covers kindergarten through eighth grade? Or is there a reason why this age group needs to be sectioned off into a separate middle school?

"The Middle School Conundrum." *New York Times*. The New York Times Co., 18 June 2012. Web. 25 June 2012. <<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2012/06/18/the-middle-school-conundrum>>

# TM#4: Demonstrate and Practice— Identifying Hooks

## Directions:

1. Read the paragraph and underline the hook, the sentence that grabs the reader's attention.
2. Circle the type of hook.

1)

thought-provoking

observation

question

a specific example

quotation

There is a popular viral video on the Internet, a soap commercial of a model being transformed from an ordinary-looking woman into a stunning beauty on a billboard. This transformation shows us the power of technology to change images. Technology allows people to change photographs so that we can no longer tell visual truth from visual fiction.

2)

thought-provoking

observation

question

specific example

quotation

Recently, a scientific study was released that showed that water pollution poses a risk to 10% of the population of some farming communities in California. All people deserve clean, healthy drinking water. Something must be done to correct the environmental practices that are polluting our waters all over the world.

## TM#5: Demonstrate and Practice—Writing Hooks

**Directions:** Read the paragraph and write a hook to grab the reader’s attention. There are many possible correct answers! An example is completed for you in each section.

### thought-provoking observation:

**Example:**

The human body can go for much longer without food than it can without water.

Water is critical for our health. Parents and schools should help young people understand the benefits of drinking water regularly and should make it easier for us to do so.

**1. Now you try it:**

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If so many students continue to fail Mr. Smith’s class, why don’t they study harder for their tests? This paper will outline some of the best ways to study for your physics exams.

### question:

**Example:**

Have you ever tried to grow something in the blistering Texas heat, only to have your plants wither up and die after a month, or even less?

Those of us who are determined to garden in Texas have learned to cope with the extreme weather. There are a few simple strategies you can follow to help you raise healthy, beautiful plants, no matter what the Texas climate serves up.

**2. Now you try it:**

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That kind of adventure in the wilderness is exactly what 11 young men from our school will experience this summer, with the High School Adventurers program. This program gives young people a chance to build leadership skills by facing the challenges of an outdoor trip.

## TM#5: Demonstrate and Practice—Writing Hooks (cont.)

### specific example:

#### Example:

The other night, I was watching TV in the afternoon with my five-year-old sister, and a horrific story of violence was shown on the news.

As I watched the show, I became more aware of how many news stories contained violence that was too disturbing for my young sister to watch. I believe that TV networks need to take responsibility and limit the violence shown while young children are likely to be watching.

#### 3. Now you try it:

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These kinds of parties are becoming more and more common. Teenagers all over the world have special celebrations to mark the most important birthdays of their adolescence.

### quotation:

#### Example:

“Don’t be afraid!” my friends shouted at me from the bottom of the expert slope. “Just point your skis down the mountain and follow us!”

This bold (but stupid!) approach to learning how to ski is not something I would recommend to others. Instead, you can find great ski instructors all over the country who can help you master the basics before you risk your neck on an expert slope.

#### 4. Now you try it:

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This comment hurt, partly because it was painful but more so because it was something I already knew, deep down inside. Sometimes our best friends can tell us things we already know but just don’t want to admit to ourselves.

## TM#6: Practice—Writing Hooks

**Directions:** Read the paragraphs and write a hook to grab the reader’s attention. There are many possible correct answers! Choose from among the four types of hooks we have discussed today, and write the type of hook you used at the bottom of the paragraph.

*(When students share responses, record student responses below. Answers will vary.)*

1.

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Through experiences like this, participating in sports can make us more than good athletes. Sports have helped me become more mature, a better team player, and someone who can face challenges in life with confidence.

**Type of hook:** \_\_\_\_\_

2.

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I have needed that kind of advice more often than I can count, and my cousin was always there to provide it. My cousin is the most important person in my life, because he has supported me at home, at school, and in my relationships with my peers.

**Type of hook:** \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## TM#7: Independent Practice Answer Key

### Part 1: Review the Strategy

1. What is a hook? *Opening sentence of an introduction that catches the reader's attention. It is also known as a "lead."*
2. What are the four types of hooks that we learned today?
  - a. *thought-provoking observation*
  - b. *question*
  - c. *specific example*
  - d. *quotation*

**Directions: Read the paragraph and write a hook to grab the reader's attention. There are many possible correct answers! Choose from among the four types of hooks we have discussed today, and write the type of hook you used at the bottom of the paragraph.**

*(Sample response; actual student responses will vary.)*

*Every summer, our town is blasted with heat, and much of the city enjoys regular swims in the pool.*

There is nothing more refreshing on a hot summer's day. For this reason, the city parks department should allow residents to swim in the icy cold waters of the Central Springs for free.

**Type of hook:** *thought-provoking observation*