

Beginning an Introduction Paragraph w/ An Interesting Hook

*Have Thesis sentence complete before attempting your Creative Hook.

1) First, think about what you are writing about. Then open your Introduction paragraph with something to grab your reader's attention. This can be a real life story about you, or about someone else like a celebrity, perhaps a story you heard on the news, or even something that relates from history.

For instance, let's say I want to write a paper about how you should help protect penguins. I might begin in either of the following ways:

Personal Hook: This method will use a situation or story that relates to you personally.

I will never forget the time I went to Sea World and saw penguins for the first time. They were so small and adorable. I stood there for an hour just watching them swim around. I wish I could have taken one home.

General Hook: This method relates to all people in some way.

People love penguins. We create movies about them like "Happy Feet", and they appear in many children's books as "Tacky the Penguin". Maybe it's their cute waddle or their slippery skin, but everyone seems to love penguins.

Creative Hook: You could also make up something that is simply creative.

The sun hadn't shown for days. Gray clouds of dust and ash covered the land. I was dizzy from lack of food; dehydrated from lack of water. Outlaws roamed the land. I hadn't even played my Nintendo Wii in months! Now you may be thinking, what could have caused this apocalyptic scene? Was it nuclear bombs? Was it zombie attacks? No. It was...losing the penguins. Yes, losing the penguins led to this strange, new catastrophic world. Oh, how I wish we could go back and save those poor, precious penguins.

***Note:** You cannot just make up some story that does not fit into what you are talking about either. The Hook *needs* to go along with your main topic or Thesis sentence.

2) Therefore you need a **Transition Sentence** to go between your Hook and Thesis.

I am going to now combine what I wrote in each hook above with a transition sentence, then into a clear Thesis/main Topic sentence. The Hook is left in regular Font. The Transition sentence(s) are in italic font. The Main Topic sentence or Thesis is in bold font.

So here is how I added in my Transition sentence and my Main Topic/Thesis sentence to the Personal Hook:

I will never forget the time I went to Sea World and saw penguins for the first time. They were so small and adorable. I stood there for an hour just watching them swim around. I wish I could have taken one home. *Well, now there is a way I can feel like I really do have a penguin! I've adopted one and you can too. The Penguin Pals is an organization offering to protect penguins in the wild.* **Each person should adopt a penguin from the Penguin Pals because penguins are an endangered species, adopting is easy and affordable, and penguins bring enjoyment into our lives and are worth keeping around.**

Here is the General Hook example, complete with Transition and Thesis sentences.

People love penguins. We create movies about them like “Happy Feet”, and they appear in many children’s books as “Tacky the Penguin”. Maybe it’s their cute waddle or their slippery skin but everyone seems to love penguins. *Penguins are a part of our lives but not for long as they are going extinct. However, there is a group called the Penguin Pals that is helping to change this. They have created a way to adopt a penguin.* **Each person should adopt a penguin from the Penguin Pals because penguins are an endangered species, adopting is easy and affordable, and penguins bring enjoyment into our lives and are worth keeping around.**

Here is the Creative Hook example, complete with Transition and Thesis sentences.

The sun hadn’t shown for days. Gray clouds of dust and ash covered the land. I was dizzy from lack of food; dehydrated from lack of water. Outlaws roamed the land. I hadn’t even played my Nintendo Wii in months! Now you may be thinking, what could have caused this apocalyptic scene? Was it nuclear bombs? Was it zombie attacks? No. It was...losing the penguins. Yes, losing the penguins led to this strange, new catastrophic world. Oh, how I wish we could go back and save those poor, precious penguins. *Well, wait, there is actually still time. The world does not have to end like this. Join the Penguin Pals and adopt a penguin today.* **Each person should adopt a penguin from the Penguin Pals because penguins are an endangered species, adopting is easy and affordable, and penguins bring enjoyment into our lives and are worth keeping around.**

3) To sum up. Your Introduction Paragraph should have the following three parts in the following order:

Interesting Hook, Transition Sentence(s), Thesis