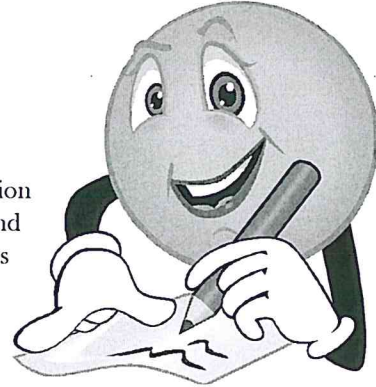


Informative Writing

An informative or expository essay is meant to communicate factual information about a topic. An informative essay is classified as nonfiction. Newspapers and magazines are two places that often feature nonfiction work. With today's technology, you have access to nonfiction writing at the click of a mouse to read information on the internet.



Introductions

The introduction of a paper is very important. It sets the tone as well as the direction for the paper. Look at the opening lines (**hook**) of all kinds of writing and ask yourself, "Does this make me want to continue reading?"

A good introductory paragraph is between 4 - 7 sentences in length, begins with a **hook**, and ends with a clear thesis statement. Not only should your hook serve to immediately grab the readers' interest, but it should be a natural lead-in to your thesis, and a meaningful opportunity for the reader to relate to the topic of your essay.

Below are examples of several different types of opening statements:

1) **Begin with a detail about the subject to entice the reader to read on.**

It's not just natural forces such as volcanoes, earthquakes, wind, water, and ice that shape the earth. Humans also have an impact on the Earth, and it is not always a good one.

2) **Begin with a personal anecdote (story).** You can write a personal story without using "I"

It seemed that all they did was drive, and each time they stopped it was to visit another site. That morning in Washington D.C. was different. They stepped out of their hotel and walked four or five blocks. Suddenly, she was amazed by all that surrounded her: the Capitol building off in the distance, the White House to her left, a vast field of grass and two ponds reflecting a towering white monument.

3) **Ask three questions.** Not the question posed to you by the test. This should be used rarely, only used with questions that will be supportive of your topic.

Is it true that bigger is always better? Could it be that society's insatiable desire for more is in many ways giving people less? Once society has accepted the premise that more choice is better, is it possible to reverse that trend?

Your Turn

Use each hook above for the following prompt. Be sure to number each hook on your paper. Use the examples to assist you as you write each hook.

Prompt: Write an informative essay about your favorite sport or hobby.