

## Practice Writing a Strong Lead Literary Essay



A **strong lead** is typically the first sentence of the introductory paragraph. This sentence should grab your reader's attention and relate to the topic of your literary essay.

Directions: Read the example leads in each box. Then, write your own lead in each category. After you complete the chart, draw a star next to the lead that works best for your literary essay.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interesting or Startling Fact</b></p> <p><i>Did you know that volunteering and helping others actually benefits your own health?</i></p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dialogue from the Text</b> (“The Marble Champ” by Gary Soto)</p> <p><i>“I’ll never be good at sports,” she fumed one rainy day as she lay on her bed gazing at the shelf her father had made to hold her awards.”</i></p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Meaningful Quote</b> (from the book you’re analyzing)</p> <p><i>“She had always earned honors because of her brains, but winning in sports was a new experience.” (“The Marble Champ” by Gary Soto)</i></p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Meaningful Quote</b> (from a source other than your book)</p> <p><i>“Our future lies with today’s kids. . . ” (quote from famous female astronaut, Sally Ride)</i></p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Vivid Description of the Setting</b></p> <p><i>In the sleepy town of Raymond Creek, the cool breeze rustled through the autumn leaves on that dark and unforgettable evening.</i></p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>One Powerful Word or Phrase</b></p> <p><i>Dedication. This is what makes dreams come true. This is what made Lupe reach her goals.</i></p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>