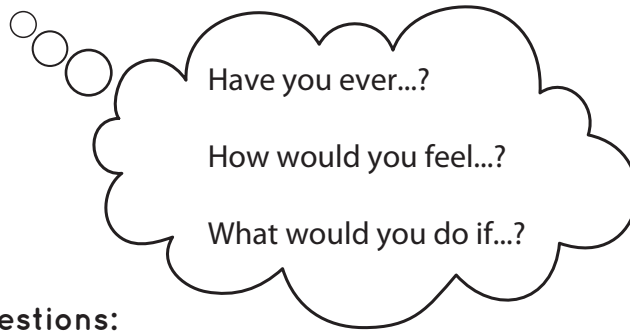# Writing an Introduction for Informational Text

An introduction is your first chance to make an impression on your reader! Hook your reader to get them interested in your topic, then give a preview of what they will learn.

A **hook** is a question or surprising statement that catches the reader's attention at the start of the introduction. It should help the reader make a personal connection to the topic or it should make them feel curious.

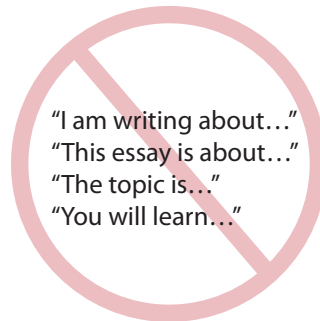**Here are some example hook question starters:**

Have you ever...?

How would you feel...?

What would you do if...?

Practice writing your own hook questions:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Some common mistakes when writing an introduction are:
- Giving all the information up front.
- Introducing text in a boring way that doesn't make the reader interested in the topic.

"I am writing about…"
"This essay is about…"
"The topic is…"
"You will learn…"

Here's an example of a strong introduction:

How would you feel if a stranger came into your home? You might be scared or angry. That's exactly how the Wampanoag people felt when European settlers arrived in North America in 1620. But, eventually the Wampanoag people helped the the newcomers survive their first winter in America.

Writing an Introduction for Informational Text

The introduction is the first paragraph of an informational text. However, one great strategy is to write it after you have written the body of the text. Read the text below, then follow the steps to write an introduction paragraph.

Bats use echolocation to navigate and find food in the dark. They make sounds with their mouth or nose and listen for echoes. When they hear an echo, they can determine the size, shape, or distance of an object--even a tiny mosquito! Bats aren't blind, but echolocation helps them find their way around more easily in the dark.

Dolphins also use echolocation. They make clicking sounds underwater and when the sound travels back or makes vibrations in the water, they can identify where an object is located. The amount of time it takes the sound waves to come back help a dolphin identify the distance of an object. The longer it takes for the sound waves to return, the farther away the object is located.

Scientists have studied how animals use echolocation to develop similar systems that humans can use. Sonar is a system that uses sound waves to navigate and determine the location of objects, like ships or submarines.

Steps to write an introduction:

1. Write a hook question to draw readers in.
2. Answer your hook question with a brief statement.
3. Give a preview what readers will learn in the text.

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