

How to intrigue your reader....

# **PERSONAL ESSAYS STARTERS**

# WARM-UP: WRITER'S NOTEBOOK ACTIVITY

- ✘ Good writing is all about connecting to your reader.
- ✘ One way to connect your reader to the text is by creating vivid images that your reader can visualize and relate to.
- ✘ We call this “showing” a reader instead of just telling him/her

# WARM-UP: WRITER'S NOTEBOOK ACTIVITY

- ✘ Show me, don't tell me...
- ✘ Often time, writers fall into the habit of telling a reader, but to engage the reader, make him feel like he is in the situation with you by vividly describing it.
- ✘ Don't just tell me – “**It was incredibly funny**” – instead show me with vivid, sensory details

# WARM-UP: WRITER'S NOTEBOOK ACTIVITY

- ✘ Show me – “It was incredibly funny.”
- ✘ To help you get started, watch the following funny clip and then write a description of what is happening that would let a reader come to the conclusion that it was incredibly funny.
- ✘ Amazing Farting Baby
- ✘ Laughing Baby

# PERSONAL NARRATIVE ESSAY – STARTING STRONG/WRITING CATCHY INTROS

- ✘ The introduction of an essay is probably one of the most essential parts, but it is usually one of the last things you write.
- ✘ You want to start your essay with a sentence that hooks your reader.
- ✘ **Catchy introductions are crucial because:**
  - + You never get a second chance to make a good first impression
  - + The introduction acts as the roadmap to the rest of your piece
  - + A catchy introduction will make a reader want to read the rest of the paper.

# PERSONAL NARRATIVE ESSAY – STARTING STRONG/WRITING CATCHY INTROS

- ✘ Open with an attention grabber:
  - + an intriguing example
  - + a quotation
  - + a puzzling scenario
  - + a vivid and unexpected anecdote (personal story)
  - + a thought-provoking question

# CATCHY INTROS – INTRIGUING EXAMPLE

- ✘ Make your reader have to think about your topic
- ✘ Examples:
  - + A long time ago I heard the adage that it takes something like 43 muscles to frown but only 17 muscles to smile.
  - + Your brain generates 25 watts of power while you're awake—enough to illuminate a light bulb.
  - + 40 billion songs are downloaded illegally every year, that's some 90% of all music downloads.

# CATCHY INTROS – QUOTATIONS

- ✘ Intrigue your reader by using a thought-provoking quotation that hints at the topic or lesson in your paper.
- ✘ Examples:
  - + “Life is not measured by the breaths you take, but the moments that take your breath away.”
  - + “Live well; laugh often; love much.”
  - + “Wise people learn when they can; fools learn when they must.” (Arthur Wellesley)
  - + “Wisely, and slow. They stumble that run fast.” (Shakespeare)



# CATCHY INTROS – PUZZLING SCENARIO

- ✘ Make your reader question your topic
- ✘ Examples:

# CATCHY INTROS – VIVID ANECDOTE

- ✘ Offering a snapshot glimpse at a personal moment will intrigue a reader to want to know more about you. Put us right in the moment with you.
- ✘ Example:
  - + I could hear the buzz of voices as I walked up the stairs to the function room. A glance at my watch showed that it had already been in progress for about forty minutes. I figured about two hours would see me out; then I could escape....

# CATCHY INTROS – THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTION

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- ✘ Asking a question forces your reader to contemplate it
- ✘ Examples:
  - + Do you have any regrets in life?
  - + Would you give your life to save someone else's?
  - + Is it possible to lie without saying a word?
  - + What would you do differently if you know no one would judge you?

# STRONG INTRODUCTIONS – OTHER FACTORS

- ✘ Your introduction, aside from being catchy and grabbing your reader's attention, should also include the following information:
  - + Let the reader know what you will be writing about
  - + Hint at your theme, lesson, or overall message
  - + Transition into the beginning of your story – the personal narrative