Writing Effective Hook Sentences

**The first sentence in the first paragraph of your essay, book report, etc… must capture the readers’ attention and make them want to finish reading your work. Below is a list of the kinds of commonly used hook sentences…although there are others. Be mindful that of SOAPStone & DIDLS in the crafting of your hook sentences. There should be some connectedness between your hook, the thesis and the overall structure of your essay. The hook may provide the “vehicle” by which your main ideas are connected and serve as a closing point in your conclusion.**

1. **Begin with a simile or a metaphor.**

My life has been a carnival. My family is like an open book.

2. **Begin with a question (rhetorical or otherwise.)**

Who is the greatest athlete of all times?

3. **Begin with a definition.**

Amiable is the best way to describe my personality: I am friendly and caring. Perfect is

the best adjective to describe me: I am flawless in every aspect of my life.

4. **Begin with a quotation.**

“Learn to laugh” is something my kindergarten teacher told me after Ralph Thorsen

spilled paint on my daffodil picture.

5. **Begin with a comparison to a well-known person or celebrity.**

I am as photogenic as Tyra Banks.

6. **Begin with placing yourself in the past / future.**

In the year 1492, I lifted the main sail on the Santa Maria.

In the year 2012, I see myself as a supreme ballerina performing in Camelot at the

Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

7. **Begin with a dilemma.**

Deciding to attend Hampton Roads Academy, a private school, was one of my most

difficult decisions.

8. **Begin with an outstanding fact, statistic or otherwise historically important scene.**

According to CNN, over 95% of all high school students do not get enough sleep during

the week days.

The day of my birth began with Hurricane Charlie pounding at our door in Charleston,

South Carolina.

9. **Begin with the best advice you have ever received.**

“Butch, did you practice the piano?” Since I was six years old, this has been a daily

reminder from my dear mother. “Be all you can be” has been my inspiration from my

grandfather who is a retired Marine Corps colonel and my mentor.

10. **Begin with an anecdote.**

As my cousin and I pedaled our new bikes to the beach, 6 years old, suntanned and

young, we met an old, shaggy-haired man weaving unsteadily on a battered old bike.