**Types of Lead/Hooks (Personal Narrative)**

The lead or hook (beginning or introduction) establishes the direction your writing will take. A good lead grabs the reader’s attention and refuses to let go. In other words, it hooks the reader. Below are some ideas on how to write an interesting lead. Experiment with the different types and choose the one that works best for you.

**Question**

Many high school teachers will not allow you to use this lead type because it is overused and often misused. The key is to ask an interesting question that relates to the main idea and sparks the reader’s curiosity.

Example:

Have you ever wondered how you would survive if you found yourself alone in the wilderness? How would you defend yourself against predators? What would you eat? Where would you find water?

**Announcement**

Open with an announcement about what is to come. However, do not insult the reader by saying something like, “I am going to tell you about …”

Example:

The day my sister threw up on the sailor’s hat was a day that I’ll always remember.

**Opinion**

Open with your opinion about the topic. (No need to say, “In my opinion” – we know it’s your opinion.)

Example:

No one should have to share a room with a little brother. Most little kids are pains in the neck, and they never listen.

**Quotation**

Open with a quotation from a character from the story or someone you know personally.

