

# Leads

*The lead (beginning or introduction) establishes the direction your writing will take. A good lead grabs your reader's attention and refuses to let go. In other words, it HOOKS the reader.*

**Question Lead:** (ask your reader a question)

- Have you ever wondered \_\_\_\_\_?
- 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?

**Action Lead:** (using a strong verb)

- \_\_\_\_\_ing \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example: Jumping across the log and sloshing through the river, Ryan ran away from the mysterious men who were chasing him.

**Onomatopoeia Lead:** (start with words that imitate sounds)

- \_\_\_\_\_!
- Example: Boom! Thunder shook the skies as Pete huddled in his tent. Crash! The two cars collided at the intersection and the sirens began to sound.

**Opinion Lead:** (open with what you think about the topic)

- In my opinion, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example: In my opinion, the driving age should be lowered to fourteen.

**Quotation Lead:** (open with a quotation that is well known or from a famous person)

- \_\_\_\_\_ said, "\_\_\_\_\_."
- Example: President John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

**Figurative Language Lead:** (begin with a simile, metaphor, personification, or hyperbole)

- The \_\_\_\_\_ was/is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is/was like a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example: The pencil sharpener was always hungry. It ate my pencil every time I went to sharpen it.

**Definition Lead:** (open with the meaning of the term you are discussing)

- \_\_\_\_\_ is defined as \_\_\_\_\_.
- The dictionary defines \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_.
- According to the dictionary, \_\_\_\_\_ is defined as \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example: According to Webster's Dictionary, a government is the authority that serves the people and acts on their behalf.

**General Statement Lead:** (begin with several sentences containing ideas about your topic)

- There are many characteristics of/that \_\_\_\_\_. However, the \_\_\_\_\_ most important include \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example: There are many characteristics that a good student possesses. However, the three most important include being a good listener, a hard worker, and staying organized.