Introducing Narrative Topics

Your personal narrative writing will need a strong hook to pull the reader in. You want to write with an effective topic sentence. You want to write as though you were telling your story. You want to catch your reader’s interest. Each time you attempt narrative writing, you will need to pick an introductory style that matches the tone and purpose of your writing. Here are 5 introductory strategies for you to practice using.

1) Place yourself in the middle of the action.

*Example: I don’t remember anything from Friday before the sound of the wailing ambulance in the distance.*

2) Begin with a surprising statement or fact.

*Example: I tried to burn my house down this weekend.*

3) Start with someone speaking (dialogue).

*Example: “Get out of my room now!” I yelled at my little sister.*

4) Begin with description (sensory details).

*Example: Though I had looked forward all week to the sweet, vanilla flavor of the silky butter cream frosting on my cake, my taste buds were not prepared for the flavor explosion I experienced Sunday night when I finally celebrated by much-awaited birthday.*

5) Use figurative language.

(Use a simile, metaphor, personification, or hyperbole)

Simile: compares two different things using the word *like* or *as*.

*Example: I woke up last night to the sound of scratching created by the sinister branch that was curved like a claw outside my window.*

Metaphor: compares two different things not using *like* or *as*.

*Example: Her eyes were glowing flashlights lighting up the night.*

Personification: gives human traits to something that is not human.

*Example: As I looked out across the pumpkin patch, I could see the corn stalks from the maze dancing in the distance.*

Hyperbole: an exaggeration.

*Example: When the door slammed in the night, my heart hit the floor.*