


Name _____ # _____

Using Leads/ Hooks in Narrative Writing

The lead or hook is the beginning or introduction to your story. It gives the reader a preview of what your story will be about. A lead draws the reader into your story. A good lead hooks readers from the beginning and makes them excited to continue reading.

Look at the examples of each of the following various types of leads. Then finish off the hook using the prompt provided. Each hook can be 1-2 strong sentences or perhaps as long as a paragraph. Use the example as a guide.

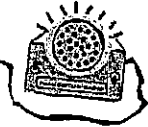



Talking Lead

This lead begins with dialogue.

Example: "Quick, hit the floor," my dad yelled.
"Whatever you do, don't look up!" my mother added as I dropped to the floor and slid myself under my bed.
It was a terrifying night for my family when we discovered a bat in our house.

"Oh, no! Not again!" I cried.



SOUND EFFECT Lead

This lead begins with a specific sound to get the reader's attention.

Example: Smash! The window cracked, the wind howled, and the door flung open. Rain poured in through the screen, drenching the welcome mat inside our house. I will never forget the fierce storm that invaded my house last night.

Ding-Dong!



Snapshot Lead

This lead begins with the author "painting a picture" for the reader.

Example: It's ten degrees below zero, and the river is frozen a foot thick. It makes snapping sounds like the limbs of a tree cracking. A lone figure glides along the black ice, moving towards the city. The only sound is the scraping of each blade as it bites into the river. That's me doing my favorite sport, ice-skating.

The bell rang and the students started filing toward the exit.



ACTION Lead

This lead gets the reader quickly involved in the story by starting with an exciting event or some kind of action.

Example: I threw on my favorite red dress and scrambled down the stairs as fast as I could. It was my 8th birthday, and I couldn't wait for the party to begin.

The roller coaster creaked as it slowly crept up the enormous hill.

? QUESTION Lead

This lead begins by asking the reader an interesting question.

Example: How bad could it be? That's what I wondered before my family left for our camping trip with all seven of us piled into one car!

How long would we have to stand in line?

FLASHBACK Lead

This lead takes the reader back to a specific event in the past that relates to the topic.

Example: I could feel the sweat pouring off my body as I watched the seconds tick off the clock. It was as if I was dribbling in slow motion, weaving in and out of the defenders, and heading towards the hoop. As the buzzer sounded, I felt the ball roll off of my finger tips, and I watched anxiously as it spun around the rim for what seemed like an eternity. I finally heard the swish of the net. I had won the game for my team!

I looked up at the gigantic skyscraper and gasped in surprise.