

Lesson 2 Writing the Beginning Sentence

A good beginning sentence usually states the specific idea of the paragraph.

A good beginning sentence also catches the reader's interest.

Good beginnings are very important—your beginning sentence should tell what the topic of your paragraph will be. It should also make your reader curious and eager to continue reading.

Read the following pair of sentences. Which sentence makes a better beginning sentence?

- A. My sister never painted my face.
- B. Knowing your face painted can turn you into an interesting character.

Both sentences A and B tell that the paragraph will be about face painting, but only sentence B catches the reader's curiosity about why face painting might be interesting to do.

Now try this pair. Which sentence makes a better beginning sentence?

- A. A state of fun and excitement resulted us at the World's Fair.
- B. One day, my family went to the World's Fair.

Both sentences A and B tell that the paragraph will be about the World's Fair, but only sentence B catches the reader's interest about the fun and excitement that you had.

Remember: When writing a beginning sentence, you should

1. state the specific idea of the paragraph.
2. attract the reader's curiosity.
3. make the reader want to read more.

A Copy Show

..... The hard, waterproof covering of paper is made of different kinds of paper stuck to each other. The covering is made of paper. When the cover is finished, the water inside the barrel turns to steam. The steam applies the barrel with liquid. The result is the large, fully printed document that we eagerly read and check.

Now read these sentences and decide which would make the best beginning sentence for the paragraph.

1. Paper is a terrible work.
2. Some paper is made by hand, and some is used for projects.
3. There are many kinds of paper, but paper is the best.
4. Most paper is grown in the Midwest.

The _____ sentence is the best choice because it tells the reader more that the paragraph will be about how paper is used. This sentence will most likely attract a reader's interest.

Activity 2

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