

Adv. English 10  
*Lord of the Flies*  
Final essay: Hook practice

Think about the essay you have already started. Use **three** of the suggestions here to craft **three** different possible hooks. More detail is provided on the back of this page.

*Write the hook underneath the appropriate header*

**HISTORICAL REVIEW:** Introduce your reader to your essay with a brief historical summary of the period.

**ANECDOTE:** A little opening story that relates to your topic.

**QUOTE:** Open with a quote and tie it into your topic – consider quotes from historical figures or favorite movies: think outside the box!

**SURPRISING STATEMENT:** Take your audience by surprise—but make sure, make it relevant!

**FAMOUS PERSON:** Use the character of a person (or several people!) to introduce your topic.

**Historical review:** Some topics are better understood if a brief historical review of the topic is presented to lead into the discussion of the moment. Such topics might include "a biographical sketch of a war hero," "an upcoming execution of a convicted criminal," or "drugs and the younger generation." There are many topics that could be introduced by reviewing the history of the topic before the writer gets down to the nitty gritty of his paper. It is important that the historical review be brief so that it does not take over the paper.

**Anecdotal:** An anecdote is a little story. Everyone loves to listen to stories. Begin a paper by relating a small story that leads into the topic of your paper. Your story should be a small episode, not a full-blown story with characters and plot and setting. Read some of the anecdotes in the *Reader's Digest* special sections such as "Life in These United States" to learn how to tell small but potent stories. If you do it right, your story will capture the reader's interest so that he or she will continue to read your paper. One caution: be sure that your story does not take over the paper.

**Quote:** A quote is a great way to hook a broad audience and is often used well by student writers. It can be a great way to tie in popular culture—what often matters most to young people—to writing about literature. For instance:

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face...we must do that which we think we cannot" (Thinkexist.com). Next, explain what this quote means to you then connect it to the topic: text-to-text, text-to-self, or text-to-world connection.

**Surprising statement:** A surprising statement is a favorite introductory technique of professional writers. There are many ways a statement can surprise a reader. Sometimes the statement is surprising because it is disgusting. Sometimes it is joyful. Sometimes it is shocking. Sometimes it is surprising because of who said it. Sometimes it is surprising because it includes profanity. Professional writers have honed this technique to a fine edge. It is not used as much as the first two patterns, but it is used.

**Famous person:** People like to know what celebrities say and do. Dropping the name of a famous person at the beginning of a paper usually gets the reader's attention. It may be something that person said or something he or she did that can be presented as an interest grabber. You may just mention the famous person's name to get the reader's interest. The famous person may be dead or alive. The famous person may be a good person like the Pope, or he or she may be a bad person like John Wilkes Booth. Of course, bringing up this person's name must be relevant to the topic. Even though the statement or action may not be readily relevant, a clever writer can convince the reader that it is relevant.

*Material is adapted from a handout prepared by Harry Livermore for his high school English classes at Cook High School in Adel, Georgia*