

Essay Hook Ideas

1. **Literary quote:** This type of hook is appropriate when you are writing about a particular author, story, literary phenomenon, book, etc. Using a quote will make your essay sound fresh and establish your authority as an author.

- *"So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past." These words of Nick Carraway perfectly describe..."*
- *"Not all those who wander are lost." And yes, indeed, every person is so..."*
- *"When we love, we always strive to become better than we are. When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too." Agree or not, but these words from The Alchemist determine..."*

2. **Quotes from Famous People:** A quote from an authoritative and influential person can help support your argument and create an intriguing hook. The key is to make sure that you clearly show how the quote is relevant to your essay.

- *"John Wooden once said, 'Never mistake activity for achievement.'"*
- *"Learn to laugh" were the first words from my kindergarten teacher after Ralph Thorsen spilled paint on my daffodil picture.*

3. **Anecdote:** A quick, humorous story. Remember, even if you start with a humorous anecdote, it doesn't mean that your entire essay has to be funny. A bit of humor can help you grab readers' attention and spark their interest in the topic.

- *"As my cousin and I pedaled our new bikes to the beach, 6 years old, suntanned and young, we met an old, shaggy-haired man weaving unsteadily on a battered old bike."*
- *"When I was a young boy, my father worked at a coal mine. For 27 years, he made it his occupation to scrape and claw and grunt his way into the bowels of the earth, searching for fuel. On April 19, 2004, the bowels of the earth clawed back."*

Keep in mind that most essay assignments will ask you to avoid using the first person. Be sure to check any requirements before using "I" in your writing.

4. **Pose a Question:** Be sure to avoid simple "Yes" or "No" questions and try to pose questions that ask reader to consider the other side or engage in some critical thinking.

- *“What would you do if you could play God for a day? That’s exactly what the leaders of the tiny island nation of Guam tried to answer.”*
- *“Have you ever wondered, whether Anna Karenina still loved Alexei if she hadn’t decided to commit a suicide?”*

5. **Set a Scene:** Describe an incident or detail the particular features of a person or a character to help the readers become immersed in your writing.

- *“The day of his birth began with Hurricane Charlie pounding at our door in Charleston, South Carolina.”*
- *“Deciding to attend Hampton Roads Academy, a private school, was one of my most difficult decisions.”*

6. **Include an Interesting Fact or Definition:** Provide an interesting fact about something you are going to discuss in your essay’s body and your audience will want to keep reading to learn more.

- *“Spain, though hardly a literary juggernaut, translates more books in one year than the entire Arab world has in the past one thousand years.”*
- *“Amiable is the best way to describe Elizabeth’s personality: she was friendly and caring.”*

7. **State Your Thesis:** Start with your main argument and use the rest of your essay to support your point of view.

- *“It is time, at last, to speak the truth about Thanksgiving, and the truth is this. Thanksgiving is really not such a terrific holiday. . .”*
- *“Humans need to invest more time and money into space exploration because Earth is on a certain path to destruction.”*

8. **Reveal a Common Misconception:** If you start your introduction by showing that a commonly accepted truth is actually false, your readers will be instantly hooked.

- *“Any parent will tell you that goldfish are a great first pet for a child. They hardly need any attention, and they won’t be around for too long. Flushing a goldfish in its first week is pretty common—it even happened to my first goldfish. But it turns out that goldfish aren’t as helpless as we all think.”*
- *“While most coffee enthusiasts would tell you that their favorite drink comes from a bean, they would be wrong. Coffee is actually made from a seed that is simply called a bean.”*

9. **Statistics:** By listing proven facts at the very beginning of your paper, you will create interest that can be carried throughout the rest of the essay.

- *"The average iceberg weighs over 100,000 metric tons."*
- *"70% of all jobs found today were got through different networking strategies"*