

Hook Your Reader

Grade 5 • ELA • Writing essay introductions with hooks • Standards: W.5.1

Each introduction below is boring! Rewrite it with an exciting hook that grabs your reader's attention. Use a question, a surprising fact, or a vivid image to make readers want to keep reading.

- 1. Boring introduction:** I think recess is important. Students need recess every day. This essay will explain why.

Rewrite with a hook:

- 2. Boring introduction:** Pets are good for people. Many families have pets. I will write about why pets are helpful.

Rewrite with a hook:

- 3. Boring introduction:** Reading books is better than watching TV. This essay will give reasons. Books and TV are different.

Rewrite with a hook:

- 4. Boring introduction:** Our school should start a recycling program. Recycling is important. Many schools recycle.

Rewrite with a hook:

- 5. Boring introduction:** Students should learn to cook. Cooking is a useful skill. Everyone needs to eat food.

Rewrite with a hook:

Answer Key — Hook Your Reader

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. Sample answer: Have you ever felt your brain getting foggy during a long school day? Recess gives students the break they need to recharge and focus better in class.

(Acceptable answers include a question, surprising fact, or vivid image related to recess, followed by the main idea. The hook should engage readers and lead naturally into the topic.)

2. Sample answer: A soft purr, a wagging tail, a gentle nuzzle—pets bring joy to millions of homes every single day. These furry friends do much more than just keep us company; they actually improve our health and happiness. *(Acceptable answers include a question, surprising fact, or vivid image related to pets, followed by the main idea. The hook should create interest and connect to the essay's purpose.)*

3. Sample answer: While a television screen flashes images at you, a book invites you to create an entire world inside your own imagination. Reading offers benefits that staring at a screen simply cannot match. *(Acceptable answers include a question, surprising fact, or vivid image comparing reading and TV, followed by the main idea. The hook should present the comparison in an engaging way.)*

4. Sample answer: Every week, our cafeteria tosses hundreds of plastic bottles into the trash, where they will sit in a landfill for 450 years. Our school desperately needs a recycling program to stop this waste and protect our planet's future. *(Acceptable answers include a question, surprising fact, or vivid image related to recycling or waste, followed by a clear statement about the school's need for a program. The hook should emphasize the problem or opportunity.)*

5. Sample answer: Imagine standing in your own kitchen ten years from now, staring at a stove with no idea how to prepare even a simple meal. Learning to cook now is not just about making food—it's about gaining independence, saving money, and staying healthy for life. *(Acceptable answers include a question, surprising fact, or vivid image related to cooking, followed by reasons why the skill matters. The hook should help readers visualize the importance of the topic and connect it to their future.)*