

Writing Skills: Starting with an Attention Grabber

Level: Elementary School

To grab your readers' attention, you need to interest them in what you have to say. If you start your essay or paragraph with something that piques their interest, they're more likely to want to read more. One way to accomplish this is to ask a question -- something that makes them wonder. Another is to use descriptive language that helps readers feel like they are part of the scene.

Read the attention grabbers for specific topics below. There are two for each given topic. Circle the letter of the sentence that would best grab the reader's attention.

1. Topic: Rats

- a. Rats are rodents that come in many shapes and sizes.
- b. Have you ever wondered exactly how smart rats are?

2. Topic: Travel

- a. It was a sunny May morning outside, but the air in the castle smelled of the sea and sent a chilly tickle down my spine.
- b. The castle was tall and made of gray stone.

3. Topic: Sports

- a. Soccer is my favorite sport because I get to run a lot.
- b. I love the feeling of racing down the field and the shot of adrenalin when that black and white ball comes rolling toward me.

4. Topic: Story Starter

- a. She was bored; why not go?
- b. It had been hours since they left; where could they be?



Writing Skills: Starting with an Attention Grabber Answer Sheet

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. b