

Writing Skills: Starting with an Attention Grabber

Level: High School

To grab the readers' attention, you need to interest them in what you have to say. A quotation may grab a reader's attention because of its content or because of the name of the person who said it. When you choose a quotation, choose something that relates to your topic, and note who said it.

Decide if the following sentences would be good attention grabbers for an essay. Write YES if it is a good attention grabber and NO if it is not.

1. _____ Babe Ruth once said, "Every strike brings me closer to the next home run."
2. _____ My teacher once told me that life isn't supposed to be easy.
3. _____ "I laugh and joke, but I don't get distracted very easily," LeBron James once said.
4. _____ Mark Twain is known for his humor, but he was never more serious than when he stated, "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear."
5. _____ There is a Japanese proverb that tells us, "Fall seven times and stand up eight."
6. _____ Jesse James Garrett has been quoted to say, "Building technical systems involves a lot of hard work and specialized knowledge: language and protocols, testing and refactoring."
7. _____ My aunt always tells me to hold my shoulders back and stop slouching.
8. _____ Madeleine Albright spoke for women everywhere when she said, "It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent."
9. _____ "Knowing what must be done does away with fear," said Rosa Parks.
10. _____ I'm not sure who, but someone once said, "Life is too important to be taken seriously."

Writing Skills: Starting with an Attention Grabber Answer Sheet

1. YES
2. NO
3. NO
4. YES
5. YES
6. NO
7. NO
8. YES
9. YES
10. NO