

# Crafting Stronger Introductory Sentences or How Student X Got His English Groove Back

Given today's high speed, brief is best, connect with as many as possible world, it is essential that a good writer begin strongly. Be bold in that first sentence. It may be all you get as your potential readers scan though the information at their fingertips. This year you must begin to focus more and more on writing concisely and with great clarity. Know your purpose and focus tightly on that purpose.

It all begins with a strong introductory sentence. Here's a little exercise to help. Remember, without practice we are severely reducing the odds of our success.

Read each of the following sentences and rewrite them in a way that makes them more appealing and more focused. In short make them bolder and by doing so make them stronger.

1. There are many, many reasons why Douglas should not have eaten the mechanical piece of metal machinery.
2. It is my opinion, and I want to be clear in this paper that people can be strange and do weird things.
3. I want to show that school is stupid for alot of kids.
4. When lime jello stands in front of you and your grandma is watching, it makes sense to have a sense of humor, and I'm not kidding.
5. Do you want to learn something about poor people and health care?

Wheewww! Those are some real stinkers. Now see what you can do to repair some of the damage. Let's take our time on this one.

First see if you can state in a few words (very few) what you think the purpose or goal of the sentence is supposed to be. In other words, can you figure out a thesis or controlling idea or claim statement that this sentence is headed toward?

Next, rewrite the sentence.

Compare it with the original. Identify what you liked about theirs and they should do the same for you.

Now, revisit and rewrite again, only this time focus on syntax or word arrangement. See if the same idea can be rearranged into a sentence that works even better.