
INTRODUCTIONS

Try beginning your paper with:

1. A straight-forward, matter-of-fact, statement of a subject. This can be rhetorically effective for critical papers, or as understatement for startling events.
2. An enigmatic opening.
3. A question, possibly rhetorical.
4. An anecdote or a startling fact, like those often used as openers for after dinner speeches or assembly talks.
5. A quotation.
6. The creation of a mood or feeling for a locale, a device common to the short story or novel.
7. A statistic.
8. The withholding of key information until late in the paragraph, hence, evoking suspense in the reader.
9. Effective repetition.
10. A figure of speech.
11. The use of sound (onomatopoeia) to attract the reader's attention.
12. A strong contrast.
13. The reversal of a cliché.
14. A historical comparison.
15. An opinion.
16. An immediate physical description of main character-- holding the name till later.
17. An autobiographical account.

from the editors of *Time Magazine*.

Some sample introductions (not all good, but...)

1. All our important ideas about the rights of individuals in a society grow directly from political writings of the Renaissance.
2. We don't agree on when the Renaissance began, on when it ended, on what brought it about, nor on what snuffed it out. People then didn't even know they were living in it. But it has more impact on our lives to day than any other period of history.
3. How could one person not just succeed but excel in every known area of human activity?
4. Fleas changed the world of the Renaissance more than all the people who lived in it combined.
5. "I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman," Queen Elizabeth I told a critic, "but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too."
6. The last leaves hung yellow on the small trees, and a late morning breeze that chilled lifted off the Thames. People waited in line at the Globe in small groups, men in wide hats and capes and dull white ice-cream cone collars and smelling powerfully of garlic and ale, the few women whispering in pumpkin-shaped skirts.
7. Between 1348 and 1350, the Black Death wiped out exactly half the population of Europe.
9. Love rang in the songs. Love filled the poetry and painting. Love gave theme and form to drama. Love returned to the churches.
10. Trying to distinguish the nature of the Renaissance is like trying to eat walnuts with your bare hands. You might find the tools to get at the meat, but you come away so scarred that you wonder if the work was worth it.
12. At no time in history had people been more free; at no time had they more resembled prisoners.
13. We look first to books to help us find the words and ideas to serve as a cover for the Renaissance. But you can't judge a cover by its book.
14. In the outburst of literature, music, art, philosophy, exploration, and political thought, the Renaissance and fifth century Athens stand nearly as identical twins..