**WRITING YOUR HOOK – MEMOIR**

A narrative hook is a literary technique that opens a story. This topic sentence should grab the reader’s attention! This introduction encourages the reader to continue reading to find out what happens in the story.

**START WITH DIALOGUE**

Think of a quotation that makes a point and relates to what your story will be about. Write a brief introductory conversation between the main characters.

***Example***

“Shh, I have a secret to tell you. But, you have to promise not to tell,” my sister whispered to me.

**WRITE A VIVID DESCRIPTION**

Help paint a picture that clearly describes an event that will happen in the story. Use your senses to help people make a connection to what is being written.

***Example***

There was a sudden flash of light out my window. I shrieked! The night sky sparkled with electricity. The thunder boomed with a vengeance.

**FIND A QUOTATION**

When using a quote, it can be a direct quotation from a book, TV show, movie, song, or from a famous person.

**Example**

“Apenny saved is a penny earned.”- Ben Franklin. I really wanted to buy that new video game, but I was broke. How was I going to come up with the money I needed?

**START WITH AN INTERESTING OR SURPRISING FACT**

If you know an intriguing or possibly shocking fact, chances are this fact will grab your reader’s attention too!

**Example**

One town in Indiana is called Santa Claus. Jingle bells also ring in a place called Santa, Idaho. Those places, just like my hometown, know what the true spirit of Christmas is all about.

**BEGIN WITH A DEFINITION**

**Example**

Perseverance- Steadfastness in doing Something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. That is how my Grandfather grew his one man store into a very successful small business.

**BEGIN WITH A DILEMMA**

Starting your story with a problem, hooks your reader’s attention by getting their brains thinking about the solution to the problem presented.

**Example**

My brother was facing one of the toughest decisions of his life. He had studied for hours throughout high school career. Cornell University and Yale University both had stellar academic programs.

**INCLUDE A SIMILE OR METAPHOR**

Similes compare two things using *like* or *as*.

A metaphor is when you use two nouns and compare or contrast them to one another. Unlike similes, you don't use "like" or "as" in the comparison.

**Example**

SIMILE: The band was as loud as all of the football fans cheering after their team won the Super Bowl.

METAPHOR: The playroom was a loud screaming stadium of fanatic fans.

**START WITH A FEELING OR EMOTION**

This emotional connection will make the reader want to read more.

**Example**

His face was beet red. His teeth were clenched, and his fists were sweaty. Brian had never been so furious!

**USE REPETITION**

Repetition emphasizes a certain feeling or emotion using a 1 or 2 word phrase.

**Example**

Ouch! Ouch! Ouch! My arm was throbbing. The blue cast that was wrapped around my arm was a sign of my battle wound.

**BEGIN WITH A COMPLAINT**

Writing a complaint may relate to the reader who also has the same grumble.

**Example**

No, I will not eat spinach. Not now, not ever. It is nasty! I hate spinach.

**REMEMBER GREAT ADVICE**

Starting your story with advice you have received or heard will hook your readers.

**Example**

At first if you don’t succeed, try, try again. This is the advice my dad gave me as I learned how to hit a baseball.

**INCORPORATE A LOT OF DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES**

Adjectives spice up writing!

**Example**

The glittering night sky sparkled with the bright, shimmering light of the stars.