

## Introductions and Opening Sentences

Introductions should: Grab the attention of readers, set the tone, provide the thesis, and forecast the organization of the essay

A surprising or provocative quotation  
 An anecdote illustrating the concept  
 Paradox or surprising aspect of concept

A fascinating bit of information  
 A comparison or contrast  
 A concrete example

An announcement of the concept  
 A forecast of the topics

<b>Author</b>	<b>Opening Sentence</b>	<b>Introduction Strategy</b>
Brandt	“As we all piled into the car, I knew it was going to be a fabulous day.”	Image - Set up contrast with the end
Dillard	“Some boys taught me to play football.”	Comparison
Ellis	“A year before his death, my father was forced to come out to me.”	Provocative info
Shah	“The day he disclosed his matrimonial ambitions for me, my uncle sat me at his right during lunch.”	Symbolic Image (concrete example)
Cable	“Death is a subject largely ignored by the living.”	Promise about death (comparison)
Edge	“It’s just past 4:00 p.m. on a Thursday afternoon in June at Jesse’s Place, a country juke 17 miles south of the Mississippi line and three miles west of Amite, Louisiana.”	Image and anecdote
Orlean	“If I were a bitch, I’d be in love with Biff Truesdale.”	Compare Biff w/ people; establish tone (surprise/provocative info)
Coyne	“You can spot the convict-moms here in the visiting room by the way they hold and touch their children and by the single flower that is perched in front of them – a rose, a tulip, a daffodil.”	Symbolic image (concrete example)
Ngo	“Fifty-five Vietnamese refugees fled to Malaysia on a small fishing boat to escape communist rule in their country following the Vietnamese War.”	Anecdote
Toufexis	“O.K. let’s cut out all this nonsense about romantic love.”	Paradox
Friedman	“In the course of the last year, the woman lost her husband to cancer and then her job.”	Concrete example
Kluger	“If the entire human species were a single individual, that person would long ago have been declared mad.”	Paradox
Weschler	“Deep in the Cameroonian rain forests of West Africa there lives a floor-dwelling ant known as <i>Megaloponera foetens</i> , or, more commonly, the stink ant.”	Symbolic image and concrete example
Krakauer	“Jim Gallien had driven four miles out of Fairbanks when he spotted the hitchhiker standing in the snow beside the road, thumb raised high, shivering in the gray Alaska dawn.”	Image and Anecdote and Paradox