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Examine the Opening

Objective

Students will use specific strategies in an attempt to capture a reader's attention.

Materials Needed

- Revision Tools (overhead and/or handout, page 54)
- Sample Passages A and B (overhead or handout, page 65)
- Personal Reflection Guide (overhead or handout, page 55)
- Lesson Ten Skill Check (overhead or hoandout, page 77)
- Personal Reflection and Skill Check (handout, page 56)

Build a New Skill

Introduce

1. Ask: **How does a writer get people interested in reading what he or she has written?**

Answers will vary. Make sure to point out that one way writers interest readers is by creating an interesting opening.

2. Together with the students, create a list of interesting ways to begin a piece of writing. Answers will vary, but you might want to include:
 - Select an interesting piece of dialogue. (“What was that noise?”)
 - Insert an exclamation. (Bam! A door slammed shut in the other room.)
 - Describe an interesting character or setting. (Johnny was an unusual fellow.)
 - Start with an exciting event. (I ran through the forest as fast as I could, trying to find a familiar sight.)
 - Appeal to the senses by describing an interesting smell, sight, sound, feel or taste. (My nose burned with the smell of smoke.)
 - Ask the reader to imagine something. (Imagine that)

Model

1. Display or distribute Sample Passages A and B. (Note: They are not introductory paragraphs. They are just the opening lines.)

Sample Passage A

Imagine a mossy pond with flies and mosquitoes buzzing around. Does that sound like a great vacation spot? For a frog, it is.



Sample Passage B

Frogs are interesting animals. They like to live in mossy ponds with flies and mosquitoes.



2. Ask: **Which sample passage models a more interesting way to start a writing piece about frogs?** *Sample A is the more effective opener.*

Personal Reflection and Skill Check

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Piece: _____



Personal Reflection

Directions: Reflect on the revision process that you used today.



Skill Check

Directions: Show your teacher that you understand the new skill that was just presented. Follow the directions provided by your teacher, and place your answer here.
