



Focus (What one thing will you teach and why?):

Authors pay special attention to how they start their stories because they want to hook us and make us keep reading.

Connection (What will you say to the students about why you are teaching this?):

We've been doing a lot of thinking in our notebooks, because many writers think about their ideas for a long time before they actually write a story. But I think we're ready now to try creating a draft. One thing we can do as we move from notebook entries to a draft on clean paper is to pay special attention to the beginning of our story, because we want to hook our readers at the beginning and make them want more!

Give Info: (How will you teach this? What exactly do you want to say?)

We've now read three stories together-*Eleven*, *The Marble Champ* and *Slower Than the Rest*- and I noticed that they started in three very different ways. *Slower Than the Rest* started right in the middle of the action (Leo spotting a turtle in the road). *The Marble Champ* started with sort of a close-up on one character (Lupe) and *Eleven* starts with a reflection on what it's like to be 11 years old.

I'm going to think about my story-getting asked about my brother in the hair salon. I could start it in the middle of the action, my sister and me in the salon, having fun, talking to our stylists. Or I could start with a close-up on one character, maybe the hair stylist since she's the one that asked me the tough question. Or I could start with a reflection on the fact that I hadn't thought about how I'd answer that sort of everyday question until someone asked me. Hmm...I feel like the action or reflection is the way to go for my story. I'm going to try action. [Demo first few lines of draft].

Active Involvement: (How will students "try-it" before they go off to work independently?)

Think about your story. Does it feel like it should start in the action, with a close up of one character or with some reflection? Turn to a writer near you and help each other work that out. Talk about how you'll start your stories.

Link: (What is the relationship between what you taught and what you expect them to do during workshop time?) Now that you've decided how to start your story, I want you to go back to your seats and write the whole story on draft paper. You need to look back at your notebook entries to remind yourself of some of the smart thinking you've already done (like the things you could hear/see/smell/taste/touch at the climax). But you aren't going to copy exactly what's in your notebook, because when you wrote it in there you were just making notes, not writing a real story yet.

Share: (How will students share the work they did w/ each other to further develop TP?)

Make 3 people famous. Invite a student who used each type of opening to tell why he/she chose that opening and then share the first line he/she wrote.