



# Starting Your Personal Narrative Essay- The Hook

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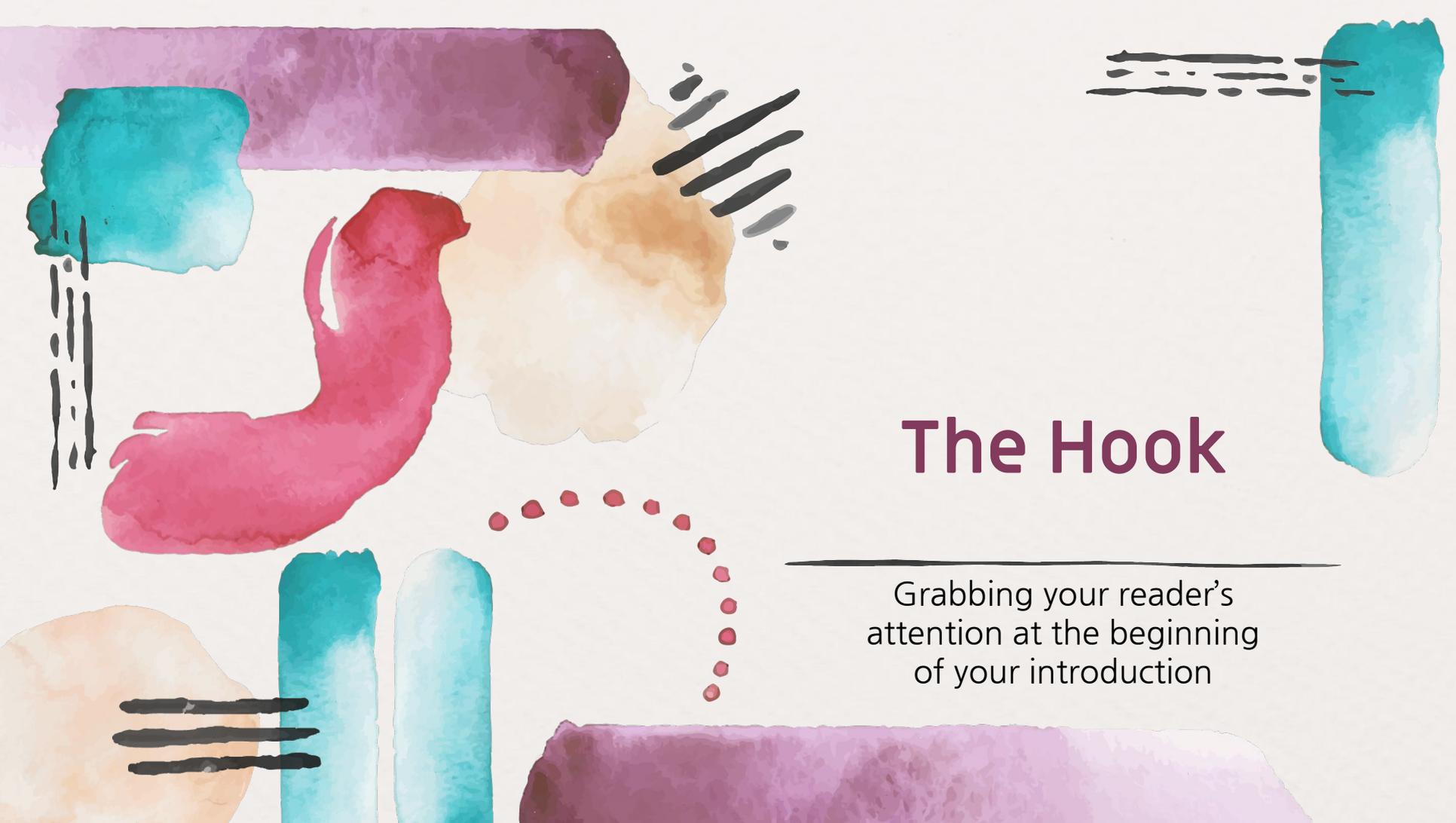




# Today's Goals

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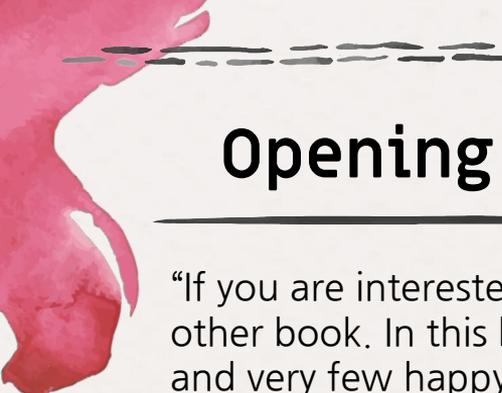
- Discuss examples of opening sentences in Fiction
- Go over the different types of hooks
- Discuss examples of Opening sentences in Non-Fiction
- In class writing- brainstorm your own hooks



# The Hook

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Grabbing your reader's  
attention at the beginning  
of your introduction



# Opening Sentences from Young-Adult Fiction

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“If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book. In this book, not only is there no happy ending, there is no happy beginning and very few happy things in the middle.”

-Lemony Snicket from *The Bad Beginning: The Series of Unfortunate Events*

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“My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973.”

-Alice Sebold from *The Lovely Bones*

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“You need something?

I can get it for you.

You have a problem?

I can solve it.

That's why they come to me. By ‘they’ I mean every kid in the school. First graders up to eighth graders. Everyone comes to me for help, and most of the time I'm happy to provide it. For a small fee of course.”

-Chris Rylander from *The Fourth Stall*





# The Puzzler

*raises questions that puzzle the reader or hints at something that will come later.*

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I'm never really sure if it's a real memory or just something that's become more solid over time. But I'm sure that my brother once tried to murder me.

# The Salesperson

*stops the reader in their tracks and  
addresses them directly*

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So you want to know all about the time I  
learned about gravity- like really really  
learned? Well, pull up a chair and get  
ready for some gorey details.

# The Interrupter

*Starts in the middle of the story by bringing you into the middle of a conversation.*

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“I can’t believe he did that! What happened next?” Liz demanded...





# The Painter

*paints a visual image of the scene*

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My apple red rain boots shone as they splashed through the puddles on the black tar pavement. Multi-colored cars raced past, cutting through the drizzle and the dark of the winter night.



# The Comedian

*The funny approach*

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Being splashed by a car moving so quickly that you are soaked to your underwear is really funny. Unless it happens to you.

# The Scientist



*uses an interesting fact or  
piece of data to begin*

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Shock has been known to kill ten year olds. It can cause their brains to explode and their heart to stop dead still. These facts came to mind as I stood dumbfounded in front of my fourth grade classmates. I wish I had stayed in bed!



# Opening Sentences From Non Fiction

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“When you’re a kid in a 1994 junior high school locker room, and on the receiving end of towel-snaps and occasionally missing gym clothes, you also quickly pick up on a perverse amount of slurs.”

- Ryan Britt from *Luke Skywalker Can’t Read and other geeky truths*

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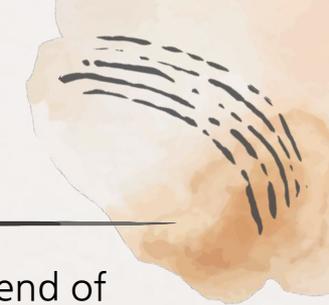
“I’ve spent most of my life being wrong.

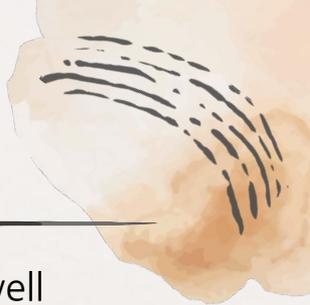
Not about everything. Just about most things.

I mean, I sometimes get stuff right. I married the right person. I never purchased life insurance as an investment. The first time undrafted free agent Tony Romo led a touchdown drive against the Giants on *Monday Night Football*, I told my roommate, ‘I think this guy will have a decent career.’ At a New Years Eve party in 2008, I predicted Michael Jackson would unexpectedly die within the next twelve months, an anecdote I shall casually recount at every New Year’s party I’ll ever attend for the rest of my life.”

-Chuck Klosterman from *But What if We’re Wrong?*

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# Opening Sentences From Non-Fiction

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“One fine day, in the spring of 1892, Edwin Brown of Exeter, Rhode Island --sane, well liked, in good professional standing, “a young married man of good habits,” according to his local newspaper-- ate his teenage sister’s heart.”

-Sady Doyle from *Dead Blondes and Bad Mothers: Monstrosity, Patriarchy, and the Fear of Female Power*

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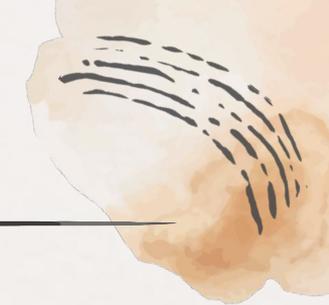
# Opening Sentences from Non-Fiction

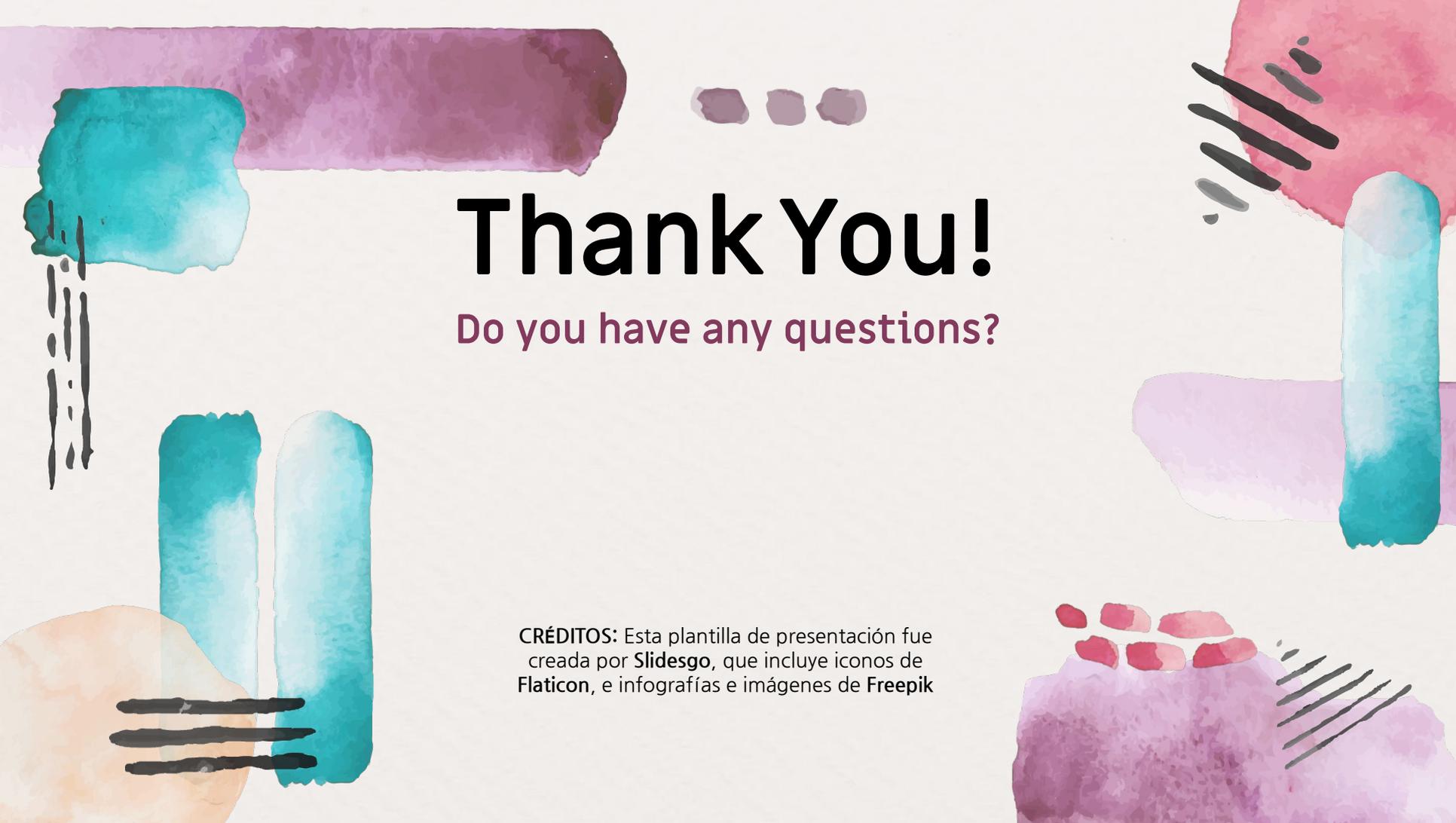
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“Jarvious Cotton cannot vote. Like his father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather, he has been denied the right to participate in our electoral democracy. Cotton’s family tree tells us the story of several generations of black men who were born in the United States but who were denied the most basic freedom that democracy promises—the freedom to vote for those who will make the rules and laws that govern one’s life. Cotton’s grandfather could not have voted as a slave. His great-grandfather was beaten to death by the Ku Klux Klan for attempting to vote. His grandfather was prevented from voting by Klan intimidation. His father was barred from voting by poll taxes and literacy tests. Today, Jarvious Cotton cannot vote because he, like many black men in the United States, has been labeled a felon and is currently on parole.”

- Michelle Alexander *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

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# Thank You!

Do you have any questions?

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