

**Try this with your class!**  
Revising Leads (Organization)

The first lines from stories can truly make or break a piece of writing. Give your students some practice choosing better leads with this fun lesson!

Day 1

Have each student write on a specific topic. (The student could write about an object that has special meaning for them; a good topic to write about is an object like a baseball, a hat, or a bracelet.)

Day 2

Have children locate in magazines examples of topic sentences which they find interesting.

Discuss how the articles begin: dialogue, anecdote, character description, "hook" line, quotation, question, moral, setting, or description.

Now have students rewrite their own beginning sentences.  
Share students' revised paragraphs.

Student sample:

First draft, opening sentence:

**Mr. Salt and Pepper is a very special bear.**

Second draft, opening sentence:

**Mr. Salt and Pepper tried to leap off the bed, but he was too old.**

--Beth M., 5<sup>th</sup> grade