

Writing a Good Beginning to a Narrative 101



A story can begin in different ways.
Whatever the beginning, it must catch the
readers' attention and make them want
to read on.



A boring beginning may result in a reader not reading whatever the author has written. Without the reader reading, the story may as well be untold.



This essay is
torture!



What are different ways to write a good beginning?

Start with details about the setting.

Ep Ahalt's farms were on a hill.



That is not
what we had
in mind!

▫

Start with details about the setting.

Ep Ahalt's farm looked down across sloping cornfields toward a small village a quarter mile to the south.



Start with an action.

Uncle Hal arrived last night.



Are we still
not getting
it?

Start with an action.

Uncle Hal arrived in the night with three boards. This was after Uncle Allan had moved us to New Street,....



Start with dialogue.

“Something will come along.” That became my mother’s battle cry as I plowed into the final year of high school.



I just may have
to give you an
“A” after all!



Start with details about yourself or someone else in the story.

For my mother, a trip outside of Ida Rebecca's territory was worth a little risk.



Start with a general statement.

The thrill of a new life in a home of our own in Baltimore was short-lived.



Start with a question.

Have you ever wondered why I love to write? I began working in journalism when I was 8-years old.



You have to be kidding me!!



Start in the middle or at the end of the plot.

At the age of eighty, my mother had her last bad fall, and after that her mind wandered free through time.



This ends Narrative 101



Any questions
class?

