



# Five Great Hooks

**hook** [huk] *noun*

The opening line or lines of an essay, article, or story. *These lines should hook the reader's attention and make him or her want to continue reading.*

Five types of hooks are listed below. For each type, we've provided an example that you could use if you were writing a persuasive essay in favor of raising the driving age from 16 to 18.

## 1. ANECDOTE

An anecdote is a short story. It can be a story about your own experience or someone else's experience. Use an anecdote to make a point.

*Example: The other morning, my brother Danny—who just got his license last month—was driving me to school. Danny's cell phone started beeping and he checked the incoming text message, dropping the toast he was eating and nearly driving off the road in the process.*

## 2. QUOTE

A quote, or quotation, is a passage that you use in your own writing that was originally written or spoken by someone else. You indicate a quote by putting quotation marks

around it and acknowledging its source.

*Example: "We were always together, but not as much after she got her license," Gayle Bell says. "If I could bring her back I'd lasso the moon." Bell's 16-year-old daughter, Jessie, rolled her car into a ditch and died in 2003.*

## 3. DROP YOUR READER INTO A SCENE

Use sensory details to describe a scene, giving your reader an immediate sense of time and place.

*Example: A video about defensive driving drones from the TV at the front of the darkened classroom. It's warm, and several of the teenagers have drifted off to sleep. Others quietly text their friends, their*

*cell phones glowing between their cupped hands.*

## 4. SURPRISING FACT

A surprising fact is an interesting piece of information that your readers aren't likely to know. It's a statement that will make your readers say, "Really?"

*Example: The rate of crashes for 16-year-old drivers is almost 10 times the rate for older drivers.*

## 5. RHETORICAL QUESTION

A rhetorical question is a statement in the form of a question. You ask a rhetorical question to make a point, not to get an answer.

*Example: What's more important: Driving as soon as possible or saving lives?*