

Hooks in Writing

Sample Topic: Post-traumatic stress disorder in the military (informational text)

Different Samples:

1. Question

Example: How does a country help those who helped the country?

Non-Example: How can a country turn its back on its military?

Problem: It leans toward persuasion.

2. Shocking Fact

Example: Some people claim that almost 100% of active and veteran military personnel suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Non Example: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder happens in the military.

Problem: Boring! Boring! Boring!

3. Hyperbole (Exaggeration)

Example: There would not be one ... see below!

Non Example: The United States government causes suicides and violent crimes!

Problem: This is simply not true, and the topic is too serious for this type of hook.

4. Simile/Metaphor (Comparison)

Example: As the pendulum swings on a clock, so does the governments changes in procedures.

Non Example: Feeling alone and insignificant, military personnel who suffer from PTSD are like puppies left at a dog pound.

Problem: This leans toward persuasion.

5. Scenario/Anecdote – A story that sets the scene for essay

Example: Imagine risking your life at war only to return and suffer from PTSD. Further imagine that no one seems to understand.

6. Fragment – A listing of two or three fragments followed by a strong statement

Example: A weary soldier. A violent war. A difficult transition home. Many United States personnel have stories to tell about their problematic adjustment returning to their families.

Non Example: A soldier. A war. PTSD

Problem: This is missing a strong sentence following fragments.

7. Famous Quotation

Example: “In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.” - Jose Narosky

Non Example: You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake.” - Jeannette Rankin

Problem: The quote does not fit the topic.