

## HOOKS IN WRITING (Mrs. Lori Huntley)

**My sample topic:** Driver's License

**Type of writing:** Argument

**Claim:** To obtain a driver's license, all sixteen- and seventeen-year olds must pass their school classes.

### 1. Question

**Example:** If a person shirks his responsibilities to his education, how can he be trusted with the responsibility of your life in his hands?

**Non-example:** Should a person who fails school be given a license?

**Problem:** If the reader says "yes" right away, he/she may not bother to read the essay.

**Tip:** Avoid YES/NO questions.

### 2. Shocking fact

**Example:** Eighty-nine percent of teenage drivers involved in serious accidents fail at least two school classes.

**Non-example:** Many teenage drivers who do not do well in school cause accidents.

**Problem:** Vague

**Tip:** Find an unusual fact that most people will not know.

### 3. Hyperbole - exaggeration

**Example:** If a student does not pass school classes, he could never learn to drive.

**Non-example:** Failing students will be irresponsible driving 110% of the time.

**Problem:** There is no such thing as 110% of the time.

**Tip:** Use an exaggeration that readers will understand.

### 4. Simile/Metaphor - comparison

**Example:** Tying a license to school performance is like a dog chasing a rabbit in a race.

**Non-example:** Tying a license to school performance is like a bird in a nest.

**Problem:** The non-example does not make sense.

**Tip:** When writing a simile or metaphor, use something fresh. Using a familiar one will make the writing stale.

### 5. Scenario/anecdote – a story that sets the scene for essay

**Example:** A young lady who does not attend school regularly wants to learn to drive. She fails all of her classes, yet passes driver's education class. Her motivation is a set of keys to a new car. But where is she going? She's headed down a dead end road to her future.

**Tip:** Write something original.

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

**Example:** Motivation. Laziness. Driver's license. A lazy student can be motivated if he wants to drive.

**Non-example:** Motivation. Laziness. Driver's license.

**Problem:** This is missing a strong sentence following the fragments.

**Tip:** Use parallel structure in the fragments.

### 7. Famous quotation

**Example:** "It takes 8,460 bolts to assemble an automobile, and one nut to scatter it all over the road." -

**Author Unknown**

**Non-example:** "Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth." - Erma Bombeck

**Problem:** The quote does not fit the topic.

**Tip:** Be sure the quote fits with the topic.