

Ways to Start Name _____

Directions: Read the list of methods for writing a lead. Identify the method used for each of the sample leads below.

Methods for Writing a Lead	
Lead #1	Use a strong visual image
Lead #2	Use dialogue
Lead #3	Use facts and statistics about the topic
Lead #4	Use an emotional anecdote
Lead #5	Use a personal story
Lead #6	Use a rhetorical question

Sample Leads

How important is education to our community? Do students rush home to do their homework? Do parents provide adequate support for their children in completing their homework and studying for tests?

Think back to when you were in the second grade. Imagine the green chalkboard and the neatly aligned rows of desks. Imagine the decorations on the wall reminding you of your letters and numbers. Imagine the sound of your teacher's voice reminding you of your homework for the evening. These images should help you recall a time in your life when you thought learning was fun.

"Hey, Jerome! Want to go out and shoot some hoops tonight?" yelled Daniel. "Yeah, I'd love to, but I need to finish my homework first," responded Jerome. "Great, I'll see you on the courts around six o'clock," answered Daniel.

Does the above scenario reflect your neighborhood? Communities across the nation are discussing the importance of education in our children's lives.

I remember the time when I was walking home from school and realized I had forgotten my science textbook. I rushed back to school and was relieved to find the school building still open. I remember caring so much about doing a good job in school.

Once upon a time, long ago, there was a school where children didn't do their homework. The teachers thought and thought about what to do. They offered incentives, played games, gave reduced amounts of homework—nothing worked. One day, one of the teachers decided to ask her students why they didn't do their homework. The students responded, "We just don't think it's important."

95% of students at Oakland Middle School attend school regularly. 70% do their homework regularly. 80% of parents belong to the Parent/Teachers Association. Based on these statistics, how important is education to the community of Oakland Middle School?