**How Do I Begin ?**  
Writing a GOOD Introduction For An Essay or Speech

**When writing an introduction for your expository essay or persuasive speech,   
here are 5 methods and some tips that work to  "WOW" your readers and catch their interest.**

**Five Methods:**

**Method #1:**          **Background Information**

* Works best for literary analysis papers
* Provide general synopsis, overview of story, book, play you’re writing about
* For non-literary papers, provide general information about your topic
* You can include interesting facts, statistics, history about the topic

**Method #2:**            **Anecdotal/Similar Story or Situation**

* Find a real life story (a narrative works well) that relates to your topic
* Use famous or not so famous stories from the news, tv, magazines
* Read the narrative or story and use a summary of it for your introduction
* Use actual names and places and dates

**Method #3:**            **Personal Experience**

* Tell about an experience in your own life that relates to the topic
* Tell a story about someone you know (a friend, relative) who had an experience that relates to the topic
* Important to give an honest account of what happened (use "I")

**Method #4:**           **Your Thoughts/Opinions on the Issue**

* Give your personal feelings about the issue you are addressing
* Tell exactly how you feel about the topic in a broad sense
* Use "I" for this type of intro

**Method #5:**            **Creative Example/Hypothetical Situation**

* Create a possible scenario or story with "made-up" people, characters
* Describe what "happened" or "can happen" to your character(s)
* Relate the story you create to your topic
* Admit in your intro that your situation is hypothetical, made-up