



Interesting Intros

Professors have read countless papers that begin with an opening like this: “Abortion is one of the most controversial topics in America today.” *Yawn*. Why not create a beginning with more zing? As a writer, you need to make sure that your first few sentences can capture and maintain your audience’s attention. Below are some examples from Adelstein and Pival’s *The Writing Commitment* that will show how to punch up your essay introduction and get off to a good start.

Controversy

Some students swear that graduate assistants are inexperienced, ignorant, and uninteresting; others insist that they are enthusiastic, friendly and inspiring.

Surprise

That slightly older dude, garbed in jeans and a sweatshirt, sometimes with a beard, often with a pipe, nearly always with a sack of books, is neither a student nor a professor, but a peculiar species known as the graduate student assistant.

Contradiction

Graduate assistants are neither fish nor fowl, neither completely students nor teachers, neither really graduates nor assistants.

Drama

Beware of graduate assistants.

Statistics

Most of the two million freshmen entering colleges and universities this fall will be instructed by graduate teaching assistants.

Figures of Speech

A graduate teaching assistant is like a pilot on a new route: each is capable, but each is unfamiliar with the course.

Quotation

In their book, *The Writing Commitment*, Adelstein and Pival state: “Although they are inexperienced, most graduate teaching assistants are generally effective instructors because they relate well to their students.”

Current Event Reference

The recent debate in freshman dorms about graduate teaching assistants was almost as heated as the controversy surrounding Taylor Swift’s new single.

Proof of Authority

Having had seven graduate teaching assistants in my first two semesters of college, I feel well qualified to discuss their strengths and weaknesses.

These examples are only a sampling of the many ways you can start out a paper that will grab your reader’s attention. Deciding which one to use will depend on the content and tone of your paper. In any paper however, the key to a good intro is creativity.

