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.