Ways to Start an Opinion Writing Piece

• If you ask me,

• In my opinion,

• I don’t know about you, but I think

• As I understand it,

Ways to Start Informational Writing (report)

• Ask the reader a question about your topic.

Did you know that the United States has more tornadoes than any other place on Earth?

• Give the reader an interesting fact.

Believe it or not, the life cycle of a fruit fly is only about 25 days!

Ways to Start a Narrative (story)

• Give details about the first setting.

Gary’s tree house sat on a big branch of an old oak tree. There was an opening for a door at the top of the ladder and one small window...

• Share an exciting event.

Bam! Colby the cat ran into the cookie jar. Smash! The cookie jar hit the floor. Digger the dog gobbled up the sweets. It was just the right time for Colby to make a break for it. First...

• Tell what characters are saying (dialogue).

“I don’t know.” Ted said to Ed. “Mom might not like it.”

Ed shook his head...

Note to the teacher: Direct each child to cut along the bold outside lines of this page. Have him or her fold along the thin lines, keeping the text-side out, and then glue the gray tab to the back of the opinion section. The child keeps the tent on his or her desk as a reference for writing introductions.