

Narrative Hook

Option 1

Essay format

- 3rd person
- powerful, cited data and information
- concrete paragraph structure
- well written intro and conclusion/transitional paragraph

Option 2

Story format

- Narrative is written like a story with dialog
- Proper grammar with correct dialog punctuation
- Logical beginning, middle, and end
- Concludes with a transitional paragraph

Sample Narrative Hook, Using Option 2: [LH, CPA Senior from 2008]

Walking on to the stage, in front of a community of people that have an impact on my life. “Hearing about fathers getting gunned down, brothers and sisters getting abducted and mothers not being able to be at home because of having to work; this is my reality, and with only 9 years of experience on this planet, I realized all of these events happening so frequently, that I want to ask you the question; Is supposed to happen? If not, why is it continually happening?” With only nine years of experience I was already informed about my community and the role that society plays on it. Did the community know this? What were they doing to stop this?

Sandra Coleman was a motivation that inspired me; she held a title of a Co-chair of an organization called Prescott Community Parent Collaborative (PCPC). While being committed at PCPC, she had ideas and presented them with others who would help implement them in the community. She would sit

on the Alameda County board committee for her community and bring out the community and Alameda County's civic leaders to help to get involved in helping improvement of the community. Coleman started out by becoming a community advocate that would help families with PG &E payments, food referrals, transportation, establishing California Identification cards and health services. In addition, she would protest (March of the Americas) to document and protest the human economic rights violation.

At the age of fifteen, I had seen more than I could handle. I saw gangs, fights, murders, rapes, and stabbings. I wanted to put a stop to it, but how? That's when I got involved with an organization called youth uprising. At youth uprising, I became a youth leader that would help promote consciousness-raising events, (how youth are portrayed in the media, how the media defaces hip hop, the purpose of knowing our culture, etc.). I wanted to start off with our current generation and go forward instead of backward. This was a life experience for me I felt as though I was doing something within my community, but it wasn't enough. That's when I took hold of another role and started to talk on radio stations and in the media about what needs to be done for this community to improve. I urged for more youth centers and wanted to make sure that youth could get their voices heard by constructing Mayoral Forums to the upcoming mayors of Oakland.

Now as I sit here typing this paper on why youth development is important and what needs to be done, I look back in my past years and configure a master plan of what I can do help my community. By doing this, I would have to answer my question. If the community knows what's happening within it, how can we stop it?