

Writing Historical Narratives

Writing the Beginning Paragraph

Student: _____ Date: _____

Write a lead.

Read each lead-writing strategy and example. Then write your own.

- Start in the middle of the action:

With the mighty Rockies on the horizon, our expedition came upon a fork in the Missouri River.

- Start with interesting dialogue:

“If we make the wrong choice, the expedition is doomed,” said Captain Lewis.

- Use a startling idea:

If your life hung on a 50-50 chance, could you flip the coin?

Write your beginning paragraph.

Write your lead and give more details to establish the setting and the main problem or obstacle facing the characters.