**8 Tips for Starting an Essay**

1. **Background information:** Lead off your essay by relating the circumstances in which the topic is set.
2. **Anecdote:** A brief story, usually of a humorous or dramatic incident, can lead into the topic.
3. **Quotation or Allusion**: The words of a philosopher, of a news report, of a recognized specialist in the subject, or of anyone with close experience of it can be used to break the ice.
4. **Sense Images:** Vivid description can attract a reader’s interest to the topic.
5. **A Striking Comparison or Contrast:** Showing how things are like or unlike

each other is a dramatic way to introduce a topic.

1. **Narrative:** Begin by telling a story upon which the essay is based.
2. **An Unusual or Puzzling Statement:** Such an opening appeals to the reader’s curiosity.
3. **Figures of Speech:** A striking Metaphor, Simile, or Personification.