

Stylistic Techniques: Sentence Openers

1. **subject**

Starting a sentence with who or what the sentence is about.

eg. name (proper noun), pronoun (he, she, they), the, a/an

2. **prepositional**

Gives position in time and space. Begin your sentence with a preposition and ask “what”.

eg. **Throughout** his time at public school, it was evident that Einstein’s thought patterns did not mean the institutional structures in place.

3. **‘ly’ adverb**

Begin a sentence with an adverb followed by a comma.

eg. **Understandably**, Einstein did not excel in school.

4. **‘ing’ participle opener**

Begin the sentence with a participle opener. Make certain that you place a comma after the opener to avoid gerunds.

eg. **Working diligently**, the scientist collected evidence from 36 different countries.

You can also use a **past participle opener** (“-ed” participle opener)

eg. **Exhausted from fighting with pharmaceutical companies**, the researcher admitted defeat.

5. **clausal**

Use **when, while, where, since, as, if, although** clause followed by a comma to begin a sentence.

eg. **As a result of her work in radioactivity**, Marie Curie was awarded the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

6. **VSS (very short sentence)**

Five or few words in one sentence in the BODY of the paragraph can break up the monotony and make a point. Short sentences can be used to add impact in your writing.