

## Creating Titles and First Lines that Capture Your Reader's Attention







Titles should express the focused meaning of your piece and draw your reader to it.



--Compare these lists of titles: which give you a sense of what the piece is about and draw your interest?

Guns and Taxes final draft	"A Softer Blow Breaks Fewer Bones"
Young Voters Point of View	Essay 2 final
Final Draft Essay 2	A Mother's Perspective
Final Draft #2	Essay 2-3 Final Draft
Loans are Always a Problem	Essay 2
A Political Opinion	"NObama"
Student and Debt	Essay 2-3 Final draft
Education and What Matters	Mother Knows Best
What Matters Most to Ashley	❗ Does one size fit all when it come to po...
What really matters in this election?	Reformation of Information (E2-3 Final)
Affordable Care Act	Final Draft of Essay #2
❗ What really matters to Salma Valdez	Life vs Dath
Predidential essay 2	❗ Decision 2012
E2-3	Essay #2 - Final Draft
Final Draft	essay#2-3 final draft
Road Conditions	Draft 2-3 What Matters Most To Me In Thi...
DREAM Voter	First Time
❗ Pursuit of Happiness or Social Shackles	What Matters Most to Me in This Election
American Soldier	
Final Draft	

**First Lines** likewise should connect your audience to the “focused meaning” of the piece and work as attention-grabbers (or “hooks”) to engage your reader in your essay.

Let’s compare the title and first lines of a few essays to see examples of “hot” and “cold” openings. Which would you want to read? The jalapeños rate each opening.

<p style="text-align: center;">Pursuit of Happiness or Social Shackles</p> <p>I interviewed a very sweet and charming girl. Megan Torres, a current student at SAC (San Antonio college), is a smiling brunette that is always in good spirits and loves texting. She</p>	
<p>I interviewed my step-mother. She wishes to keep her name anonymous but, everything else is fair game. She, along with my father, lives in Cibolo, TX and yes, she is a registered voter. She is about 5' 10" and has chestnut, brown hair that stretches</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">DREAM Voter</p> <p>Sitting on the steps leading to the wide side-doors to the campus Loftin Student Center at San Antonio College, Pacheco is taking a sip of Mr. Pibb. I get out my questions for the</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">The Devil is in the Details</p> <p>How will change really affect us? One man has a serious concern about how something that is supposed to help us, may cause even more problems for the middle class. As a retired</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Mother Knows Best</p> <p>Wouldn't it be wonderful to live in a society where pain and suffering seized to exist? A world in which, a single mother would have every possible option to save her dying baby from a fast-growing brain tumor. Not a single soul would ever have to say goodbye to their grandparent sooner than expected in the fight against cancer. Imagine this generous world that would give life, instead of taking it. These are the ideals that my Mother, Christine Dumas, prays for every waking day.</p>	
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<p style="text-align: center;">“NObama”</p> <p>Ask your grandpa one question and he'll give you a whole story. That's exactly what my grandpa did when I asked him a simple question about this years election. That saying about “old</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">“NObama”</p> <p>Ask your granpa one question, and he'll give you a whole story. That's exactly what my grandpa did when I asked him a simple question about this year's election. That saying about “old...</p>	

The best openings have a sharp title that captures the focused meaning of the piece as well as first lines that connect with the reader and attempt to catch their attention.

First impressions matter, so make sure your first lines have **no** grammar errors in them.