

If you are behind and still need to send in that first essay, or if you were asked to revise it, you should feel free to use any new material for the next version you send in. Therefore, your essay can and should have transitionals added to help the flow from one paragraph to the next.

Also, now that you have been reminded that an essay benefits from a title, you should add one; now that you have seen that beginning an essay with a related quote can be appealing, why not now search for a quote that you could have used to start the essay you already did?

Also, keep in mind that if you want a "hook" or an attention grabber, an easy technique is to think of a question about your essay, a question posed to your reader and that you are about to answer in your own essay.

The other technique, the other hook, is to add an anecdote, but the odds of your having an anecdote that is related to any given essay topic are not high. Maybe you do and maybe you don't have a related little story (anecdote).

Why not go back now and add a title and a quote to your first essay?

Look at titles of songs, TV shows, movies, plays. They are typically short and almost every word is capitalized. They are usually not whole sentences.

- a) Google how to capitalize a title. Most words, but not always all words are capitalized...
- b) Then find a quote related to your essay and add it between the title and the introductory paragraph:

The quote is kept separate from the introduction; the other "hooks" actually are the beginnings of their introductory paragraphs. Starting with a quote might look like this:

ex. (pretend title)

Title

(pretend quote) "dl;jdjdejdkm dkkkvdnm lkl llll ;ssk=pp"--
Abraham Lincoln

(pretend first paragraph) Think of writing an essay like preparing a big meal. You start by assembling the different ingredients. It doesn't just form all at once. Once you generate a good thesis--not too much info, not too little (remember Goldilocks and the Three Bears) but just the right amount--it is slightly like a title, but separate. Pretend thesis sentence goes here. It is inside your first paragraph.