

Commentary Sentence Starters

While you are not required to use these sentence starters, it can be helpful to reference this list if you are struggling to get your commentary started. Be aware that some sentence starters are better for some types of writing than others. It is your responsibility as the author to choose the sentence starter that best fits your purpose.

Basic Sentence Starters

- This shows that....
- This means that...
- This proves that...
- This illustrates that...
- This demonstrates that....
- This reveals that...
- This emphasizes that...

Sentence Starters to Show Cause/ Effect

- This is a result of... / As a result of...
- This is caused by...
- If _____, then _____
- The most likely reason for _____ was...
- In order to _____,
- Therefore,
- Since _____,

Sentence Starters for Analyzing Non-fiction:

- The purpose of this _____ [specific detail: use of evidence, word choice, type of text] is _____, because...
- _____ [Author's last name] makes the argument that _____, by...
- The main idea is _____, because....
- _____ [Author's last name]'s use of words such as "_____" and "_____" demonstrate their _____ opinion towards _____, because....
- _____ [Author's last name]'s use of _____ evidence serves to convince the reader that....
- The purpose of _____ is achieved when....
- The author's use of _____ is revealing, because...

Sentence Starters for Literary Analysis:

- _____ [detail from the direct quote] _____ is a symbol of _____ [abstract idea] _____, because...
- The metaphor of _____ is used to show _____
- _____ [detail from the direct quote] _____ challenges the reader to...
- The author's use of _____ reveals the theme...
- This connects to the theme of _____ because...
- The author's intent is _____, which is made clear by _____, because...
- _____ [Author's last name] 's use of words such as " _____ " and " _____ " reveal....
- Words such as " _____ " and " _____ " help create a _____ tone, because...

Sentence Starters for Character Analysis:

- _____ [specific detail about character] _____ reveals an internal characterization that _____ [something about the character's motives, thoughts, or feelings] _____, because.
- At this point in the story _____ [character name] _____ is realizing _____, because...
- When _____ [character name] _____ makes this choice, it is revealed that...
- _____ [character name] 's actions of _____ demonstrate that...
- The way _____ [character name] _____ speaks to _____ illustrates that their relationship is _____, because....