**Writing a Compelling Introduction**

**Three Steps:**

1. **The Hook**: This is where you get your reader to want more! Start with:

* **A Date or Event in History**: On April 15, 1912, the passengers of the Titanic felt a bump while traveling across the ocean in the world’s most luxurious ship. Most people continued to enjoy themselves without a care in the world. A few hours later, that bump had changed the passengers and the world forever.
* **A Startling Fact**: Colorado is home to the highest paved road in the country at a whopping 14,258 feet. Without Albert Bierstadt being the first person to climb the mountain, we may never have known the beautiful views from this famous road.
* **Humor:**  You know you’re from Colorado when nobody owns a compass; we have the mountains.
* **Quote:**  [*I could never resist the call of the trail.*](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/b/buffalobil327168.html) – Buffalo Bill Cody
* **Question:**  Did you know that Colorado is home to the nation’s highest paved road?
* **Important Fact:** In 1859, John Gregory discovered "The Gregory Lode" in a gulch near Central City. Within two weeks, the gold rush was on and within two months the population grew to 10,000 people in search of their fortune. It came to be known as "The Richest Square Mile on Earth".

1. **Topic Sentence and Plan for What Your Paper is About:**

* Who or what is this about? Example:
  + Although there have been many important people in Colorado’s past, Zebulon Pike was one of the most influential people in our state’s history.
* Plan for the paper (What are you going to write about?)
  + When Molly Brown rescued people from the Titanic, she showed bravery, leadership and kindness. That act is what she is most famous for, but she did many other important things in her lifetime.

1. **Share with Several People and Read it Aloud:** IS THE READER HOOKED AND DOES THE PARAGRAPH EXPLAIN WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO WRITE ABOUT?