**Writing Essays**

**Writing** the Beginning Paragraph

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| Student: |  | Date: |  |

**Write a lead sentence.**

Follow the directions below to write two different lead sentences. Then choose the one you like best for your essay.

1. Say something interesting about the topic.

Ocean mammals are big and small.

1. Ask a question about the topic.

What ocean mammal is your favorite?

**Write the focus statement.**

State the specific topic of the poll and the main point learned from the answers.

Third graders in Cooper School studied ocean mammals(topic)*,* and they like whales and dolphins the best (main point)*.*

**Write the beginning paragraph.**

Write your complete beginning paragraph. Start with your lead sentence, follow with one or two detail sentences, and end with your focus statement. (See “Summer Is the Best!” for an example.)

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