Directions: Write the beginning of your story. Remember when you go onto the middle use the next sheet of paper.

*IF I HIGHLIGHT YOUR SENTENCE YELLOW- THE SENTENCE IS TOO LONG OR TOO SHORT!!!*

**BEGINNING – NARRATIVE WRITING – SHOULD INCLUDE YOUR EXPOSITION AND RISING ACTION**

*LABEL YOUR HOOK, CHARACTERS, SETTING, AND CONFLICT.*
THESE ARE TYPICAL PROBLEMS WITH BEGINNINGS-
THE ONE I CIRCLED IS THE ONES YOU NEED TO WORK ON.

Problem 1- Needs a more interesting lead – LOOK ON YOUR DESK FOR SAMPLES

1. **Start with a snapshot** - paint a picture to draw your reader into your story
2. **Start with a thought shot** - let your reader know what created your decision
3. **Start with your moral** – Let your reader know what the point will be
4. **Start with an observation** - Put the most surprising thing you noticed first

Problem 2- You didn’t explain the characters

1. Make sure you explain who people are in the story or it won’t make sense.

   *Example* - I could cut through the Hatchers’ backyard. They lived next door to us, so it was the shortest way home.

Problem 3- You didn’t explain the setting.

2. Make sure you explain the place and time of the story.

   *Example* - The warm summer air wafted through my hair. It was my first time walking home alone - I was a kindergarten hot shot.

   These sentences show you that it’s summer, I’m in my neighborhood, and it’s set back when I was five years old.

Problem 4- You need to connect your ideas. Your story seems choppy.

1. Get rid of places that repeat. Combine some sentences. Use the transition word list to help connect ideas.

   **NOT THIS:** Farah was yellow with a pink nose. She was mean and fast. She was running towards me.

   **GOOD EXAMPLE:** Farah’s yellow fur flashed as she rocketed toward me snarling.

   IF I CROSS SOMETHING OUT, GET RID OF IT.