Introductory Sentences*

Developing an effective opening sentence for a paper is as difficult as it is important; the first sentence will significantly shape your reader's attitude and perception. An introductory sentence should be balanced between the general and the specific. It should not start way in outer space (e.g. "Since the beginning of time scholars have wondered" or "Human cultures often interact..."), but it should also not simply state your primary claim (this can be a bit jarring). While there are a wide variety of introductory sentences, many:
- refer to a specific event (historical or contemporary) related to the topic
- mention a striking fact about the topic
- briefly recount an interesting tidbit about the figure/topic the paper studies
- refer to the broader context (historical, political, cultural, etc.) surrounding the topic
- point to the critical/scholarly disagreement on the topic
- in doing any of these, point to a motive for the essay

With some of these models in mind, develop a stimulating introductory sentence on the following topics (for the purpose of this exercise ONLY, you may invent facts or statistics):

1) Gender and Video Games

2) Social Media and Education

3) Pornography and the Internet

*Adapted from Professor A. McKendry Assignment