

How Can You Spark Students' Interest on Day One?

The Entry Event can take many forms:

- Give students a piece of correspondence (real or fictitious) presenting a challenge
(Real) A memo from the school principal asks students to plan an "Olympics Day" event for the student body.
(Fictitious) An email message from the CEO of a business to employees describes a need and asks for proposals (see the sample on page 53).
- Have a discussion about an issue of interest or events in the news
After a recent plane crash in the area, students discuss how it could have happened, leading to a project focused on the physics of flight.
- Review a website
Students visit various websites where teenagers can find book recommendations, leading to a project in which they design and create content for a website they think would be more effective.
- Invite a guest speaker
A representative of the regional visitor's bureau asks the class for help with promoting local attractions to various groups of potential tourists.
- Go on a field trip
Students visit a nearby shoreline and take note of the amount and type of litter they see, which generates interest in taking action to reduce it.
- Conduct a demonstration or activity
Students play various card games and speculate about their chances of winning, leading to a project involving probability.
- Show a video or scenes from a film, fictional or documentary
Scenes from a documentary on the Tuskegee Airmen builds student interest in a project about civil rights and integration in the military.
- Read something provocative
The Ray Bradbury short story "All Summer in a Day" (in which a child in a colony on Venus is locked in a closet by peers on the only day of sunshine in seven years) kicks off an English class project about being an outcast.