Advanced Introductions
Start with the End in Mind
The Creative Writing Master Class
With Jerry Lee
Start with the end in mind

• Think of how you want to end your story
• Start by describing the ending
• Describe your Character’s F.A.T
• Loop the ending back to the intro
Why is this such a powerful method?

• Rarely-used

• Requires **Planning**

• Requires Advanced story-telling and writing skills

• Attention-grabbing introduction that generates interest

• Sets up a powerful ending or conclusion that loops back to the intro.
Key Pointers to Take note:

• **DO NOT REVEAL** what happened in the beginning

• It is **NOT** a flashback (Flashback=Reliving memory. Different things!)

• It is **NOT** “Into the action” (You don’t start with an exciting part of the story)

• Drop *minimal* hints.
Start with the End – An Example (Pt 1)

Theme: Danger

Jason opened his eyes. He saw the white ceiling. He saw the white fan spinning above his head. He heard a familiar crying voice. He turned to the right and saw that it was his mother. Rivers of tears were flowing down her cheeks. He wished he did not cause her so much suffering and sadness.

It all started on his birthday.

“Jason, I’ve got a present for you!”

Jason rushed to the living room. It was his special day. He hoped his mother had bought the present he had always dreamed of. His mother stood next to a huge package, smiling. Jason dashed to the package and started tearing off the intricate wrapping excitedly…

(The story will go on to narrate how Jason got into an accident on his skate-scooter.)

A break in paragraph to backtrack the story. (optional.)

Continue the story from an earlier starting point

Did not reveal what happened
Continued from previous video

Fast-forward to the ending:

Jason woke up in a white hospital room. His mother was crying next to him. He reached out to her and she hugged him.

“Don’t cry, Mum,” he croaked.

“I never should have bought you that skate scooter!” his mother blurted out in between her sobs.

“It’s not your fault,” Jason consoled.

The pair continued hugging each other for what seemed like forever. They saw the fragility and preciousness of life. They thanked their lucky stars profusely, grateful that Jason lived to see another day.

Theme: Danger
From the perspective of the victim:

Jason sat in the detention room, facing his tormentor, Gerald. His anger was slowly simmering away. He could not believe what he had just did. In fact, he felt slightly proud. He felt a sense of power. However, he was worried about the fate that awaits him. All this time, Gerald remained silent and his head just hung low.

Just a few hours ago, Jason was queueing up in the canteen. He was famished and could not wait to get his hands on a hot, steaming bowl of laksa.

(The story goes on to narrate how Jason got picked on by Gerald, who had been tormenting him for quite some time.

Eventually Jason fights back and hurts Gerald and the bullies badly.

However, Jason and Gerald were caught by the teachers for fighting and were sent to the detention room for further punishment.)
Start with the End – Another Example (Pt 2)

Fast-forward to the ending:

Jason and Gerald waited in the detention room in silence. An hour passed and finally Mr Tan, their school principal, came in.

“I should expel you boys for what you have done. But I decided not to,” the principal said.

“Thank you, sir,” the boys responded gratefully.

“Instead, both of you will stay back in school for 2 hours to do community service,” the principal said. “Jason, it was wrong to fight, you could have walked away and informed a teacher but you didn’t. You will do community service for 1 week. Gerald, for your bullying and constant harassment of students, you will do community service for one whole month.”

“Yes sir,” the boys accepted their punishment morosely. After that, the principal made them shake hands and apologise to each other. They spent the next few days cleaning areas of the school, emptying trash cans and washing the toilets. Jason became a calmer person and Gerald did not bully anyone anymore.
Assignment - Start with the End

Write out a one paragraph introduction using “Start with the End”. (1 quarter page.)

1. Use the picture of the trophy on the right.
2. Theme: Winning or Losing

Helpful Guidelines:

1. Who won in the end? (Your or your opponent?)
2. What were your F.A.T?
3. How does the ending play out before you?

Go through this mental process. It’s a good training on Planning.