

What is an introductory paragraph's job?

An introductory paragraph's job is

1. Grab the reader's interest.
2. Introduce what the topic of the essay will be.
3. Tell the main points that the essay will cover.

Hello my name is Sean and today I am going to tell you about why Abe Lincoln is special to me. Are you ready to hear this? Well let's go!

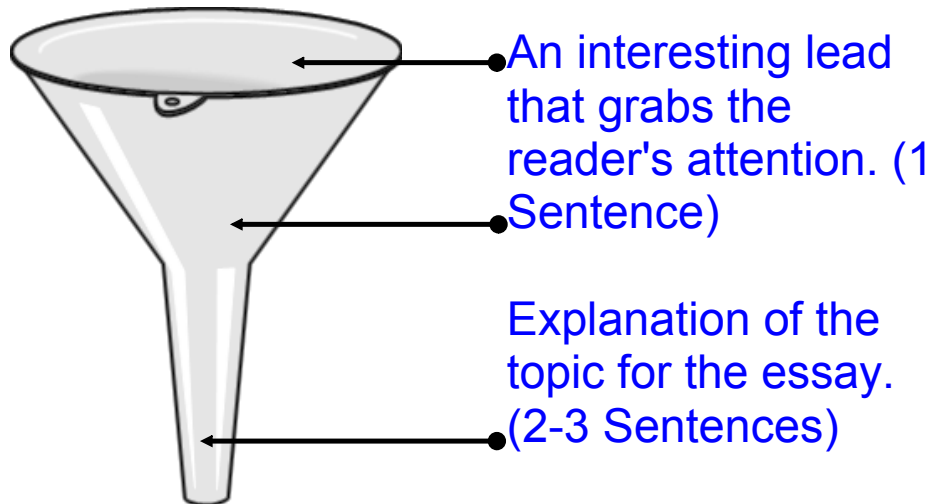
Abe Lincoln is special to me. Let me tell you two reasons why.

This is an essay about Abe Lincoln and why he's special to me.

There are two reasons why Abe Lincoln is important to me. The first reason why is because he's smart. The second reason why is because he's friendly.

Would you want to keep
reading any of these
essays???

An introductory paragraph works like a funnel to draw the reader in to the rest of your essay!



Thesis Statement - Tells exactly what this essay will talk about. (1 Sentence)

Ideas for a good
lead sentence:

A general statement

An interesting fact

A quote from a famous person

A sensory-rich description

Can you think of an example of.....

A general statement

An interesting fact

A quote from a famous person, poem, or story

A short, funny story

A sensory-rich description

What is a Thesis Statement?

The **final sentence** in your introductory paragraph. It tells exactly what the topics of your next two paragraphs will be about.

Abe Lincoln is an important American because

_____ and _____.

If I could go anywhere in the world, I would go to China. I would go to China because I love their food and I want to see the Great Wall.

Many people have dreams to go somewhere. somewhere they love and would enjoy visiting. I have a dream to go to one specific place. That is New York City.

I dream of going to Greece for many reasons. Here are some, I want to see the landscape, live the lifestyle, eat the food, and most of all meet the family's ways. I will explain these reasons more.

Analyzing Great Introductions

For each of the introductions to the right, identify the following elements:

1. Highlight the opening statement in yellow.

Is the statement an example of:

A general statement

An interesting fact

A quote from a famous person

A short, funny story.

A sensory-rich description

2. Highlight the explanation of the topic in blue. Circle any words or phrases that you think might have been taken from the prompt.

3. Highlight the thesis statement in green. Underline the two main ideas.

When Mahatma Ghandi said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world," he meant that people can only change the world by first changing themselves. There are many problems that people my age should change. For example, kids my age watch too much tv, don't eat healthy foods, and don't do their homework. But the biggest problem that I think people my age should change is bullying. Bullying is not right because bullies take advantage of a person weaker than them, and they can cause huge problems like injuries or emotional fear.

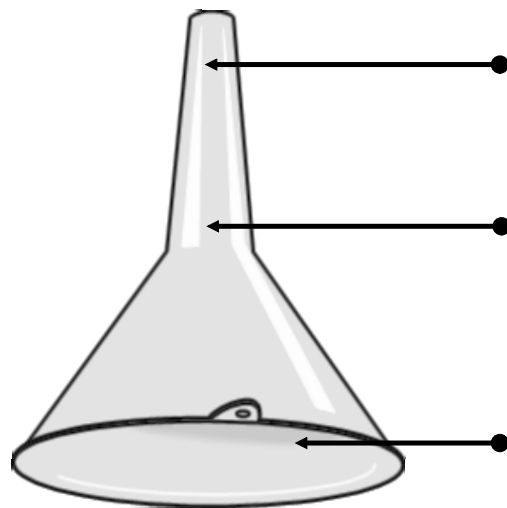
If an introductory paragraph is like a funnel....



...what would we have if we flipped that funnel upside down?

A concluding paragraph works like a funnel to lead your reader back out of your essay!

A good conclusion leaves your reader feeling confident that they understand what your argument was about.



Restate the thesis.
(1 Sentence)

Reconfirm your argu
(2-3 Sentences)

Circular ending.
(1 Sentence)

Restate the thesis

- Repeat the main points of your essay.
- Do NOT use the same words!!!

Reconfirm your argument

- Your final thoughts about the topic of your essay.

Circular ending

- A closing statement that is related to your opening statement.

For example:

Mahatma Ghandi once said, "You must be the change you wish to be in the world."

If everyone in the world did one thing to make a difference, the whole world would be a better place. Mahatma Ghandi would be proud.

Things NOT to say
in your conclusion:


Now you know why I like Abe Lincoln.

Thank you for reading my essay. I hope you
enjoyed it. It was really fun to write.

Analyzing Great Conclusions

For the introduction that follows, identify the following elements:

1. Highlight the opening statement in yellow.

Is the statement an example of: 


A general statement

An interesting fact

A quote from a famous person

A short, funny story.

A sensory-rich description

2. Highlight the explanation of the topic in blue. Circle any words or phrases that you think might have been taken from the prompt. 

3. Highlight the thesis statement in green. Underline the two main ideas. 

4. Then highlight each section's counterpart in the conclusion.

- Restate the thesis
- Reconfirm your argument
- Circular ending

For centuries, Western people have been fascinated with the countries of the East. The culture of the people - delicious foods, strange clothing, ornate religions - were exotic and mysterious to European people. Even in modern times, people in the United States are obsessed with Eastern cultures. Just turn on any cartoon channel and see the anime style cartoons to see Japan's influence on our culture! However, if I were given the chance to visit any of these amazing countries, my choice would be a less popular but just as intriguing location: India. I would choose to visit India because I am fascinated by both their culture and their history.

India's bright cultural heritage and their long history with the British Empire make it the ultimate travel destination for me. It's a place that I have wanted to visit my entire life, even though most people are more interested in the popular cultures of locations like Japan and China. My journey to India would be simply continuing the long tradition of Western admiration of our Eastern neighbors.

Here is a great introduction. On your own sheet of paper, write a conclusion to go with it! Write neatly - we will display your work on the document camera when you are through.

The world is filled with many amazing people, all somewhat different. Plenty of American people have done amazing things. But me, I believe there is one person who has done more than other Americans, like Abe Lincoln. There are plenty of things that make Abe amazing, like.....