

Writing Effective Introductions and Conclusions

1. Make sure you have an interesting **hook**.
 - a. Pull the audience into your introduction to make them keep reading
 - b. You could start with an anecdote, a quote, a story, a statistic; anything relevant to the larger topic of your essay
2. Next, add a **bridge**.
 - a. This must connect your hook to the background information about your essay or whatever you are writing about
3. Add your **background information**.
 - a. Make sure it is brief but succinct to provide the reader with general knowledge of the topic
4. Insert your amazing **thesis** at the end
5. Your introduction should look like an **inverted triangle** which goes from the general to the specific

Example:

Humans are taught that the constitution is always right, that the government will provide, protect and be perfect, that it will give rectitude for even the smallest issues (Abigail Adams once said, "May the foundation of our new constitution, be justice, Truth and Righteousness.") If one of the former first lady believes this, it should be true – right? (Spoiler Alert: it's wrong). What happens when this constitution does the opposite? When this constitution is based not on the benefit of the people, but the benefit of others? This purportedly shielding and peaceful government juxtaposed with what is on the inside calls to mind the flaws of the wonderful system we call our leader. It's no surprise then that one of the most phenomenal authors would craft a story revolving around these failings. Agatha Christie, conscious of these marvelous yet malicious errors, creates a story (blatantly) pointing them out while incorporating them in the finest way possible. On the prestigious Orient Express back to London, Hercule Poirot, a retired and renowned detective, finds himself entangled in a murder investigation: one more meaningful than what it may seem. In *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie, various elements of fiction expand on the ideas of law, justice, and morality in society.

Hook →

You can use a quote like this

Bridge connects hook about constitution to novel

Background information →

Don't forget to mention the author and title of novel

← thesis!

Writing Conclusions:

1. Start with your **thesis**
 - a. But do not use the same one from the introduction! Reword your thesis in a way that conveys the same meaning
2. Include what you talked about in your essay
 - a. Include **general knowledge** and do not just restate each topic sentence from your body paragraphs
3. Add a **mic drop** moment
 - a. Leave your readers with something to think about at the end of your essay. Be sure to answer the question: “so what?”
4. Your conclusion should look like a **triangle**, starting with the specific and moving towards the general

Agatha Christie, one the crime fiction writers of the century, was able to contribute her storytelling capabilities to bring forth ideas of law, justice, and morality. Using innumerable elements of fiction, Christie continuously dispenses crucial knowledge to solve the case at each corner point, suspending thoughts the readers begin to question. Although it may seem like any other (ordinary) mystery novel, *Murder on the Orient Express* takes the reader on their own luxurious ride. From the station, between the white tipped mountains, trapped in the cold white snow, and finally the journey's end. In selected facets, Christie becomes a detective herself, constantly trying to solve the mysteries of life, fix the flaws of the ever-changing government and bring fairness to the things that matter the most, immersing readers with the sole purpose of this novel: a true ticket to truth.

Things to avoid:

- Using the same thesis without any changes
- Including evidence that should be in the body paragraphs (quotes, statistics)
- Starting with “to summarize,” “to conclude,” “in conclusion.” When readers get to the last page, they know it’s the end of your essay. It will become redundant if you say those phrases
- Summarizing your body paragraphs.