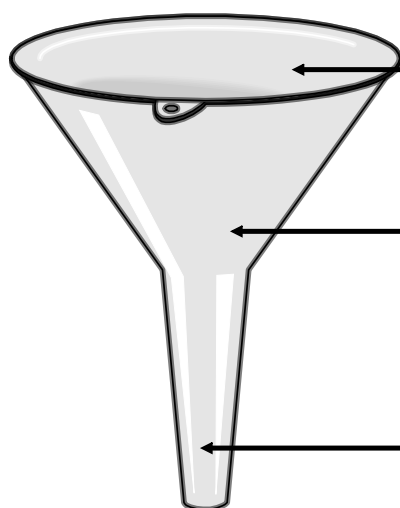


What is an introductory paragraph's job?

An introductory paragraph's job is to:

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.

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



An interesting lead that grabs the reader's attention. (1 Sentence)

Explanation of the topic for the essay. (2-3 Sentences)

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 short or funny story

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 or funny story

A sensory-rich description

Basic Introductions...

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. Furthermore, I would like to learn their language.

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

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.

My favorite season is _____ because _____ and _____.

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.

A general statement

Which type of lead is this an example of?

An interesting fact

A quote from a famous person

A short or funny story

A sensory-rich description

The world is filled with many amazing places, all somewhat different. Plenty of people have probably wanted to go to Hawaii or some place relaxing. However, I would like to go somewhere facinating. The Bermuda Triangle is the site of many sunken ships and planes that have vanished mysteriously. I think it would be interesting to visit such a strange location.

Which type of lead is this an example of?

A general statement

An interesting fact

A quote from a famous person

A short or funny story

A sensory-rich description

I grew up listening to the sound of my grandfather banging away with his tools in the garage. He spent hours in his shop fixing cars, lawn mowers, and anything else that was mechanical. Even though he never did anything amazing with his life like fly a rocket or save the world, I've still always considered my grandfather to be my hero. My grandfather is my hero because he always works hard and never gives up on anything he does, and he always made time for his family.

Which type of lead is this an example of?

A general statement

An interesting fact

A quote from a famous person

A short or funny story

A sensory-rich description

The soft, warm breeze blows against my cheek. I can taste the salty water that drips from my hair. My feet sink through the hot layer of sand on top and into the cooler sand underneath the surface as I run up the shore. I drop down on our blanket and open a soda, breathing in the fresh sea air. The beach is truly an amazing place to vacation. Every year, my family vacations at the beach. It is my favorite place to go in the entire world because I love to swim in the ocean and spend time with my family.

A general statement

Which type of lead is this an example of?

An interesting fact

A quote from a famous person

A short or funny story

A sensory-rich description

Steer clear of these types of introductions!!!

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

My dog is my most special object. Let me tell you two reasons why.

This is an essay about my dog and why he's special to me.

There are two reasons why my dog is special to me. The first reason why is because he's smart and can do tricks. The second reason why is because he's friendly and lets me pet him.

Challenge!

Write an interesting introductory paragraph for the following prompt:

What is the best season of the year?

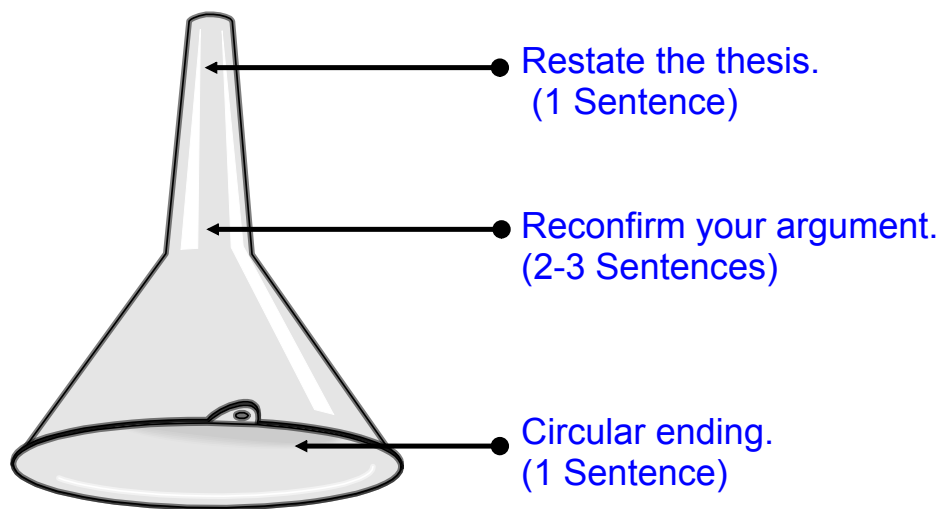
If an introductory paragraph is like a funnel....



...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

- 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.

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

When Mahatma Gandhi 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.

Bullying is a huge problem in our world today. If kids my age stood up against bullying, we would be able to make a difference. Mahatma Gandhi felt that change begins with each individual, so kids my age can start changing the world by standing up against bullying. If we could make bullying history, Mahatma Gandhi would be proud.

When Mahatma Gandhi 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.

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Things NOT to say
in your conclusion:

Now you know why I would like to go to China.

So if you could take a trip anywhere, where would you go?

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

For centuries, Western people have been fascinated with the countries of the East. The culture of the people - delicious foods, unique 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 watch 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.