

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH REFERENCE NOTES

Sentence 1ish: Attention Getter

- Invites the reader into the paper in a unique way – think TACO BELL – outside the box
- Dialogue is for stories not papers
- Rhetorical questions are okay, but are dangerous – generally avoid starting with questions and NEVER use a “Have you ever...” scenario
- Legal leftovers are then include but are not limited to statistics, quotes (cannot be anonymous), analogies, alliteration, pop culture references – movies, songs, books, etc , startling news
- NEVER in a text analysis use a quote from the book, poem, play, etc that you are analyzing – that is NOT thinking outside the box that is the box

Sentence 2ish: Introduction to Topic

- If you have done a good job of intriguing an audience you have more than likely thought of an atypical connection between your paper’s subject and another point of interest.

For example – take a guess – what will my paper be about based of this attention getter

“Good Jedi you will be,” Yoda told Luke...maybe Star Wars...no that is too obvious. Jedi, clever syntax, small green entities...the possibilities are endless.

- Introduction to Topics are the second sentences of introductory paragraphs and they are commonly referred to as bridges
- They take your wonderfully unique, obscure idea and link it to the overall paper idea

“Good Jedi you will be,” Yoda told Luke. Much like Yoda was a reassuring mentor to Star War’s protagonist, mentors are powerful characters in many pieces of literature.

Now, I bet you know what the paper will be about and it is because of the Intro to Topic

Sentence 3ish: Background

- Background and points are the only sentences of the intro you as the author are free to interchange (can be two or more sentences)
- T.A.G. it – acronym used for textual analysis essays meaning the background sentence(s) must give the title, author and genre of the book you are analyzing
- A small summary of plot must also be provided – by small I mean one to two sentences

For example – all of TK in a sentence

Two children come of age through the enduring tribulations of Southern injustice, when their father attempts to free a black man accused of raping a white woman.

Sentence 4ish: Points

- The topics of your body paragraphs should appear in this sentence succinctly
- Parallelism is required

Sentence 5ish: Thesis

- MOST important sentence of your paper – without a thesis you have nothing
 - Must stand alone
 - Must have an opinion without saying “I”
 - Must include the general topic
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Do all papers have “thesis” statements ... yes and no. Thesis statements ground and organize a paper’s thoughts to the single idea the author will prove. We will explore this concept on the next page; however, in informative papers there nothing to prove.

Informative papers, however, cannot be void of organization or governance to their ideas so sometimes you may hear the sentence referred to as a generalization or claim in those instances because “thesis” implies there is an argument.

For example, “The 1930s was an era of hardship and sacrifice in America,” is a generalized fact about the decade. In essence, there is little legitimate argument that could be made with that statement, so it would not be a good model thesis statement for an argumentative paper. I could use it, however, as an over-arching statement in an informative paper and then explore different aspects of life that required sacrifice in body paragraphs.

Examples of Un-Argumentative Sentences:

Might as well say “in this essay I will prove.”
You know...no first person

Greg Fraser, *Answering in Ruins*, shows how things are and questions them. **I will find those things** and analyze what I think his viewpoint is in situations where he does not say.

The literary devices in Edgar Allan Poe’s *Cask of Amontillado* emphasize the main focuses of the story.

Throughout the poem “Habitation,” there are many literary devices such as tone, structure, and imagery that **help the reader capture the main idea** of this poem.

Universal cop-out of every English student everywhere – how’s that hyperbole! “Helps the reader”...come on...you help your reader with a more substantial idea.

In Euripides’ *Medea*, it’s hard for the audience to decide if they should or should not sympathize with Medea.

Jim eventually becomes aggressive, just like all men are inherently violent.