

Improving the Introduction and Conclusion

PARAGRAPH 1 – THE INTRODUCTION

The introduction paragraph is perhaps the most important paragraph in a paper. It is the first impression made on the reader and promises the paper to be in a similar format or style.

1. The beginning of your essay is called the hook because it “hooks” the readers’ attention. The hook should relate to the topic of your essay, but it can take many forms. It can be an anecdote (a very short story), a fact, a quote, or a rhetorical question (a question to which you don’t expect an answer). Here are three ideas for hooks that could work for your paper. *Write a sentence as an example of each kind of hook.*

- a. **Anecdote:** Think of a time this particular issue happened to you. Tell a story about why it totally was – or wasn’t – worth it (depending on the side your paper took.)

- b. **Surprising Fact:** Find a fact that will raise your readers’ eyebrows. Several surprising facts can be found from doing research, reading articles, backs of books, etc.

- c. **Rhetorical Question:** Ask your readers something about the topic that will get them thinking and ready to listen to your ideas.

2. Next, write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the claim/position you are taking in your persuasive essay.
3. After that, write the sentence that is in the center box. This is your topic sentence.
4. Finally, write your “wrap-up” sentence (last box) without a transition word. You may also need to change a couple words so it sounds a bit different than your topic sentence above.

Now write your introduction paragraph below by combining the 4 steps above.

PARAGRAPH 5 – THE CONCLUSION

Second in importance only to the introductory paragraph, the concluding paragraph carries a great deal of weight. In persuasive writing, the conclusion is the writer's final chance to bring home the message to the reader. It is to be used for summary and final emphasis of the main idea.

Things that you'll want to make sure to include to have a strong conclusion are:

1. A "red" connecting word which will help your reader know that you summing up your ideas.
 - a. "Red" connecting words include: Last, Finally, In conclusion, In summary, In short, So you can see, As one can see, To summarize, and Hence
2. Use your "wrap-up" sentence, repeating the main points of the paper so your reader won't forget them.
3. Finish with a strong final sentence. This might be something personal or reflective, a question or exclamation. Looking for an idea? Try referring to your hook, finding a quote, or inspiring your readers.

Now use the 3 steps above to write your conclusion paragraph below.

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- a. **Anecdote:** Think of a time this particular issue happened to you. Tell a story about why it totally was – or wasn’t – worth it (depending on the side your paper took.)

I can remember hot summer days when my father would sit in his office working and I would be

- b. **Surprising Fact:** Find a fact that will raise your readers’ eyebrows. Several surprising facts can be found from doing research, reading articles, backs of books, etc.

Ninety-five percent of all parents do work on the weekends.

- c. **Rhetorical Question:** Ask your readers something about the topic that will get them thinking and ready to listen to your ideas.

Have you ever wanted to be a kid again?

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4. Finally, write your “wrap-up” sentence (last box) without a transition word. You may also need to change a couple words so it sounds a bit different than your topic sentence above.

add in steps

Now write your introduction paragraph below by combining the 4 steps above.

Have you ever wanted to be a kid again? I do, because when I was a kid I didn't have to worry about anything. It's great to be a kid! The life of a kid is awesome because you don't have to worry about big responsibilities, you are able to be very active, and you don't have to go to work.

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In conclusion, it is great to be a kid because you don't have to worry about big responsibilities, you are able to be very active, and you don't have to go to work. So, the next time you think you want to be treated like an adult, just remember, it's great to be a kid!