

How to Write an Introduction Paragraph



3-4 SENTENCES

Step One: The 'Hook'



- **The first sentence, the '*hook*' of an essay should be *interesting*, related to the TOPIC of the essay, but NOT stating the literature directly.**
- **You have three (3) choices for opening statements...**



Choice One: Ask a Question



- **Ask a thoughtful question relating to the topic *in general* (NOT the specific work of literature)**
- *Note – this essay is about dynamic characters, and/or the human ability to change.*
- *Examples-*

Can people really change?

What makes a character dynamic?



Choice Two: Quote, Statistic or Definition



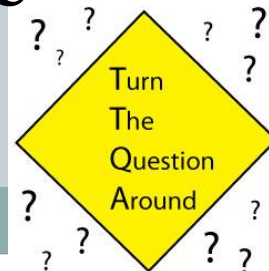
- **Find a famous quote, statistic or dictionary definition relating to the topic.**
- *Since this essay is about dynamic characters and change...*
- **Examples:**
 - *Webster defines a dynamic character as, “...”*
 - *To change means “...,” according to Dictionary.com*
 - *Famous quotes about people changing, dynamic characters, etc.*



Choice Three: Restate the Question



- Use the ideas in the introduction to the question/prompt, and **PUT IT IN YOUR OWN WORDS!**
- In Charles Dickens' classic tale, *A Christmas Carol*, the protagonist has an epiphany after he journeys through time with three spirits. As a result of this epiphany, Ebenezer Scrooge is a changed man. Explain, using text-based evidence, how Scrooge is a *dynamic character*. Explain using two ways in which Scrooge changes from the beginning of the story, to the end. What are the *causes* of these changes?



Choice Three: Restate the Question



In Charles Dickens' classic tale, *A Christmas Carol*, the protagonist has an epiphany after he journeys through time with three spirits. As a result of this epiphany, Ebenezer Scrooge is a changed man. Explain, using text-based evidence, how Scrooge is a *dynamic character*.

Explain using two ways in which Scrooge changes from the beginning of the story, to the end. What are the *causes* of these changes?

Try restating now!

Step Two: Bridge Sentence

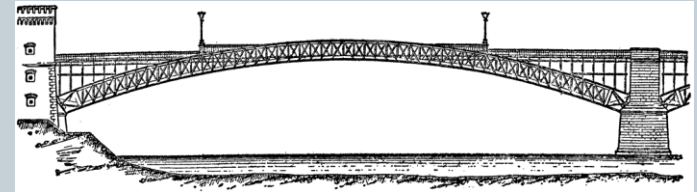


- **The second sentence of your introduction paragraph that “bridges” the gap between the thesis and the hook.**
- **This is where you provide the title, author and genre (TAG) of the work and a GENERAL statement about the topic.**

- *Examples:*

In Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol, the concept of dynamic characters is addressed.

In Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol, the idea of people changing their ways is shown.



Step Three: Thesis Statement



- The *thesis statement* is the last sentence in your introduction, and it is the *most important part* of your introduction.
- Think of it this way – *What are you trying to prove to be true in this essay?*
- For this assignment, you are trying to prove that Scrooge has changed and the cause of the change.



Step Three: Thesis Statement



Think of it this way – *What are you trying to prove to be true in this essay?*

For this assignment, you are trying to prove that Scrooge has changed and the cause of the change.

Try it now!



Introduction Review...



- **1st – Choose *ONE* hook**
- **2nd – Compose your bridge.**
- **3rd – Write your thesis statement.**

DONE!

How to Write an Conclusion Paragraph



3-4 SENTENCES

Step One: *Restate Your Thesis*



- **Go back to your introduction paragraph and highlight your thesis statement.**
- **Then try to use the same idea and reword it, so your essay doesn't sound repetitive.**

Step One: *Restate Your Thesis*



Highlight the thesis in your introduction. Reword it so it sounds a little different.

Try it now!

Step Two: General Statement about TOPIC, not the story



- **Make a general statement about the topic of your essay. Do NOT talk about the specific literature.**
- **For this assignment:**
 - **Make a statement about dynamic characters, people changing, etc.**
 - **You can be inspired by your hook!**

Step Three: Tie It Up



- **The last sentence of your conclusion paragraph must relate back to the literature**
- **You must end your essay by discussing BOTH the topic AND the STORY**
- **For this assignment:**
 - **Your last sentence should be about dynamic characters or people changing (generally) AND Scrooge (specifically)**

Conclusion Review...



- **1st – Restate your thesis**
- **2nd – General statement about the topic**
- **3rd – Tie it up with a final statement that includes the topic AND the story**

DONE!