



Introductions

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Hook

The first sentence in the introduction

Developing a good hook:



A good lead hooks the reader and heightens the reader's curiosity by arousing interest. The best leads drop the reader in to the middle of the action. Avoid using rhetorical questions, trite phrases, slang or the indefinite you.

Top 5 Types of Hooks

1. The Quotation

- a. General Patton once said, “If a man does his best, what else is there?”
- b. When Hilary Clinton said “we must stop thinking of the individual and start thinking about what is best for society,” she highlighted one of the biggest issues in American politics.

2. The quote should somewhat relate to the paper topic

3. The Bridge sentence(s) will link the quote to the thesis.

#2 the Anecdote



Anecdotes are short interesting stories, often amusing stories, that will engage the reader in your topic.

- There was nothing more isolating than being alone in a foreign country with no cell phone, no money, and no ability to speak the language
- It was Christmas of 2005 when my parents taught me a valuable lesson: always expect the unexpected.

#3 Interesting Fact

An interesting and little known fact about your topic or a startling and compelling statistic. Something that will capture interest.

- China is going to spend \$850 billion to clean up its water supply over the next decade.
- Ancient Egyptians used heavy eye makeup to keep evil spirits at bay and to protect their eyes from infection.
- Ethiopia experienced famines in 1966 and 1973, but it wasn't until the major event in 1983 and widespread media coverage that the world paid attention.

#4 Simile or Metaphor

- *When I first went to Japan, I was like a baby bird trying to fly for the first time.*
- *The high rate of poverty in America is the country's elephant in the room.*
- *Blaming rape victims is sending the bullied child to the Principal's office for punishment.*
- *Conclusions are the desert of a research paper.*



#5 A Contradiction

- Nuclear power plants are the safest source of energy, until there's an earthquake followed by a tsunami.
- Zoos keep rare and endangered species on the planet, until the population exceeds the enclosure and the animals are euthanized.
- Legally women and men are equal, just don't look too close at their wages.



Rhetorical Questions

Questions that inspire curiosity, but cannot be simply answered. However, if you use this as a hook and I urge caution, you need to answer it somewhere in your paper.

- Have *you* wondered what *you* would do if *you* couldn't fail?
- What's the one thing *you* can do to make the world a better place?
- Is the United States government for the people or for the corporations?



Bridge

The sentence that links the hook with the thesis. Yes, it can be more than one sentence.

Why a bridge?

- *It leads the reader up to the thesis.*
- *For example, you don't want to write a nice anecdote about relaxing in your recliner while you enjoy a can of diet coke and a rerun of Star Trek and then abruptly write: "My recliner is my favorite piece of furniture."*
- *To keep the essay flowing smoothly, you need a sentence to segue between your hook and thesis.*
- *For example, "As I enjoy my afternoons in my recliner, I am reminded that it is my favorite piece of furniture."*

Hook: an attention-grabbing sentence that entices the reader to continue reading. “Hooks” the reader into the topic and the essay.

Bridge: A group of sentences that smoothly shift the focus of the writing from the hook to the thesis. An effective bridge is perhaps the trickiest component of an engaging introduction, as there is not one clear way to accomplish this task.

Thesis: A **BOLD** statement of the main idea.





Thesis

Everything in your paper needs to relate, support and prove your thesis statement.

Ineffective Thesis Statements

Announcing something

- *I'm going to describe Shakespeare's love life.*
- *This essay will examine the life of a politician.*

What's so wrong?

- *These statements provide the reader with an idea about what the essay will discuss, but don't actually put anything on the line. There's nothing at stake, no specific issue to be resolved and absolutely nothing to make the reader want to learn more.*



Boring, Ineffective Thesis Statements

Stating the obvious

- Shakespeare wrote a lot about love.
- Politicians work long hours.

What's so wrong?

- If very few people are likely to disagree with the issues you discuss in your essay, what's the point in wasting time analyzing them? Your thesis statement needs to make a claim that someone may disagree with. You will then spend your essay arguing why your claim is true and why your opinion is right.



Is that a thesis?

Asking a question

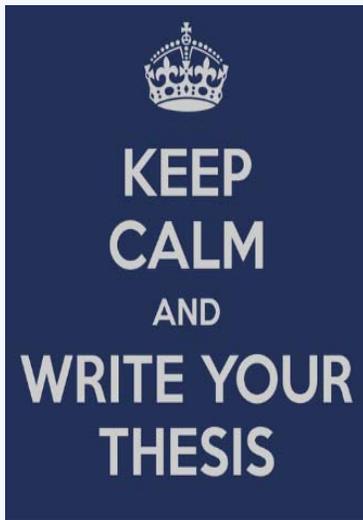
- *Did Shakespeare ever get married?*
- *Why are politicians paid so much?*

What's so wrong?

- *Your thesis statement should be clearly stating your position and the purpose of the essay, not posing a question. These questions are weak and do not give your reader any idea about what you're intending to prove in your paper.*



Fabulous Thesis Statements



- A good thesis statement is focused and not too broad.
- A good thesis statement is centered on a debatable topic.
- A good thesis statement picks a side.
- A good thesis makes claims that will be supported later in the paper.
- A fabulous thesis statement is a **BOLD** claim about the topic.

How to Write a Killer Thesis Statement

A la Shmoop

