

Fun with Five-Paragraph Essays

Introductory Paragraph

Body
Paragraph
One

Body
Paragraph
Two

Body
Paragraph
Three

Conclusion Paragraph

Introductory Paragraph

*This is the first paragraph in your essay.

*An introductory paragraph should do three things:

1. Grab the reader's interest (AKA "the hook").
2. Introduce the topic of the essay .
3. Tell the main points that will be covered in the essay.

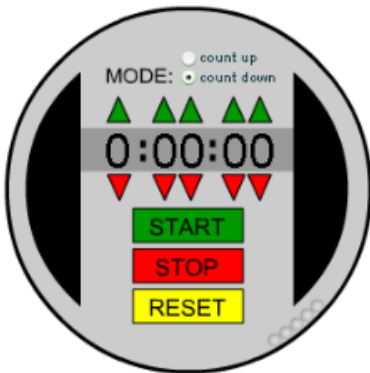
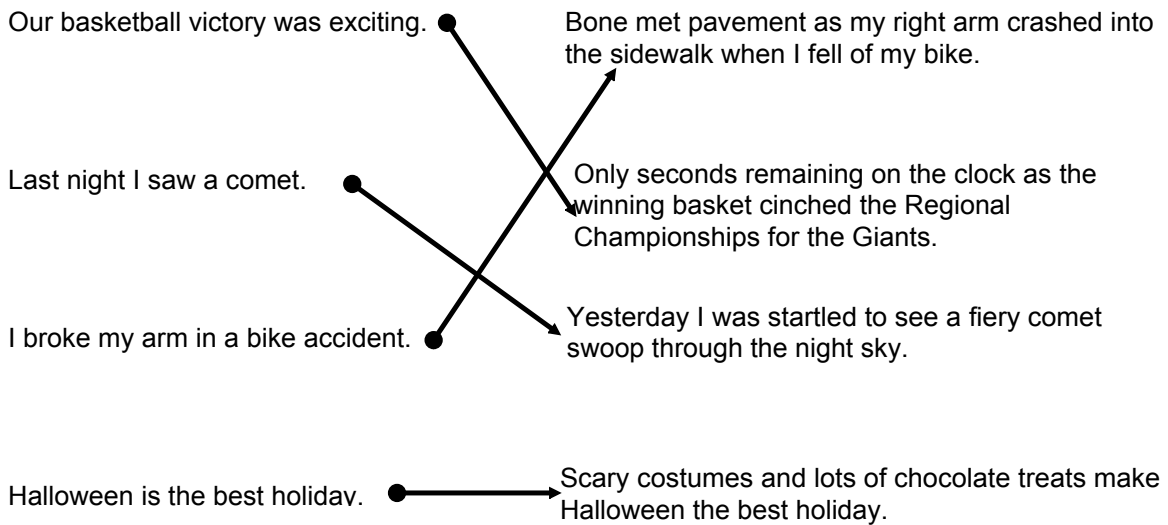
Topic Sentences

This sentence should state the main idea or purpose of the paragraph.

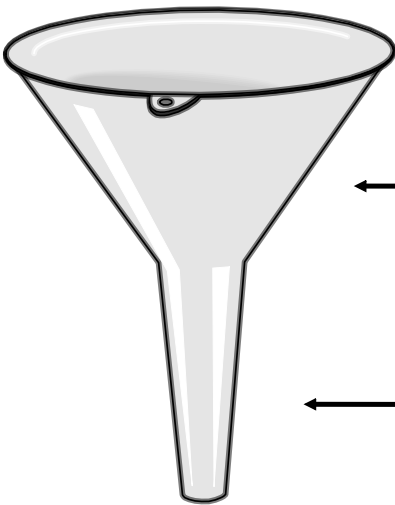
It should be interesting enough to make the reader want to read further.

Example	Strong or Weak?	Why?
A tornado is very loud.	weak	too general
A tornado sounds like a speeding train.	better	states an interesting fact
Imagine the rumble of a speeding train- that's what a tornado sounds like.	strong	makes you want to read more

Match weak and strong topic sentences.



Introductory Paragraph



← An interesting hook to grab the reader's attention.

← An explanation of the topic of the essay. Usually connects the hook to the topic.

← A thesis statement that tells the reader what the main points of your essay will be.



How do you *Hook* a reader?

Kinds of Hooks:

1. **Make a surprising statement**

Begin with an interesting fact that can capture your reader's curiosity

EX: A male Klondike bear can weigh over 1,500 pounds, measure ten feet long and run 35 miles an hour.

2. **Pose a question**

Beginning with a question can make your reader want to read on to find out the answer

EX: Why do bees always sting most in the month of September?

3. **Provide a description full of sensory details**

A vivid description sets the mood and brings a scene to life for your reader

EX: In the pale morning light, the shadowy track was still. Rounding the curve, the athlete locked her eye far end of the track, her every muscle straining toward it.

4. **Use a funny short story or joke.**

5. **A famous or interesting quote.**

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 eat the boardwalk fries, 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, spend time at the beach, and enjoy time with my family.



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, never gives up on anything he does, and he always made time for his family.

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



...what would we have if we flipped that funnel upside down?

Conclusion Paragraph

- *This is the final paragraph in your essay.
- *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.
- *Its job is to sum up the paper and be interesting.