
May 12th, 2014

Essential Question: What makes a good introduction?

Agenda: 1) Class Notes: Introduction Check List 2) Thesis Workshop in groups 3) Revising Introductions 4) Peer Editing Introductions

Homework: Finish revising your Introduction

Class Notes: Introduction Checklist

A good introduction has the following...

- A Hook that is interesting, general, and grabs your reader's attention.
 - Use your theme to help you begin! Avoid cliches!
 - Background information for your reader that connects general hook to your very specific thesis.
 - Like a “funnel” effect from the broad to the specific
 - We need specific details about the play!
 - A strong thesis statement (refer to Thursday's notes!)
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Sample Introduction

Isaac Newton's third law of motion states that with every action, there is an equal but opposite reaction. The same can be said of opposing ideas, which can become polarized when they encounter each other. In the novel, *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, Mr. Golding firmly conveys this belief by showing that the evil of the two is the side that prevails. The two specific ideas, liberal democracy, which stands for the freedom of the people, and totalitarianism, which stands for the overwhelming power of one individual, confront each other in the novel. Both philosophies originated around the same time, and both still exist today and spark unending conflict and debate. In the novel itself, a group of stranded boys find themselves struggling to remain civilized in a time of anarchy and must choose between these two philosophies. Through many challenges, they feel themselves being pulled apart by two different forces. One boy, Ralph, wants to keep civility within the boys and to get rescued; while another character named Jack, wants to dominate over the boys and to claim total control over the island. According to Mr. Golding, when two forces of equal power push on each other, the stress between them only repels them farther away; this is what happens with the ideas of liberal democracy and totalitarianism in the book, when a representative of either meets, only destruction follows.

Sample Introduction

- Does the hook get the reader's attention?
 - Does the background information funnel directly from the hook into the thesis statement?
 - Think about how much background info you need to give your reader so that they'll be able to follow your argument
 - Is the thesis statement strong?
 - Does it give the paper direction and limits?
 - Is it an argument (not just a fact, something that could be disagreed with)
 - Can the text prove that thesis?
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Revising Introductions

- The thesis is the **most important** piece of your essay
 - we'll start there!
 - After your thesis is set, you can work backwards and make sure that the introduction introduces your thesis completely!
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Thesis Workshop

Example weak thesis:

Revenge and justice are major themes of *Hamlet*. (Too factual)

Example stronger thesis:

In *Hamlet*, justice and revenge are confused. (Somewhat factual)

Example strong thesis:

Hamlet confuses revenge and justice, and, as a result, he destroys himself and those around him. (An actual argument!)

- Once you have this thesis, your whole essay takes shape:
 - Body Paragraph 1: Hamlet seeks justice through revenge
 - Body Paragraph 2: Hamlet cannot distinguish between justice & revenge
 - Body Paragraph 3: His confusion leads to his downfall as well as that of those around him.
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Thesis Workshop

- In groups of 4-5 (at your tables, so smaller tables join another table) workshop everyone's thesis following these criteria:
 - Is the thesis statement strong?
 - Does it give the paper direction and limits?
 - Is it an argument (not just a fact, something that could be disagreed with)
 - Can the text prove that thesis?
 - Revise your thesis to follow these criteria!

*Give each other honest feedback and suggestions!

Revise Introduction

Look over your own intro and revise so that your intro has the following...

- A Hook that is interesting, general, and grabs your reader's attention.
 - Use your theme to help you begin! Avoid Cliches!
 - Background information for your reader that connects general hook to your very specific thesis.
 - Like a “funnel” effect from the broad to the specific
 - A strong thesis statement
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Peer Editing/Revision

- Exchange your introduction with a partner
 - Check for the following:
 - **Editing:** Any mistakes in grammar and/or spelling
 - **Revision:** Does the introduction follow these criteria? What needs work?
 - A Hook that is interesting, general, and grabs your reader's attention.
 - Background information for your reader that connects general hook to your very specific thesis.
 - A strong thesis statement
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Revision

- Work on revising your introduction
 - If you finish revising your introduction, review your essay with the following in mind:
 - Do your body paragraphs prove your thesis?
 - What are the 3 parts of your argument?
 - Are the paragraphs sequenced in the correct order?
 - What are any arguments someone could make against your thesis? What counterarguments could you include to prove them wrong?
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Write a guide for undercover deputies who are trying to fit in at your school.