Introductory Paragraph Do’s and Don’ts

* Your introductory paragraph must be at least 6 sentences in length.
* All of your sentences must be a FACT except…
* Your Thesis Statement must be **OPINION**.
  + The Thesis Statement is the *answer* to the prompt and must be the last sentence in your Introductory Paragraph.
* No 1st person!
* Inverted Pyramid: Write from general to specific with the most specific sentence being your Thesis Statement.

1. Introduce topic to the reader.

1

2

3

4

5

6

GENERAL

2. Let the reader know there is a problem.

FACTS

3. What does one group believe? (opposite of you)

4. What does another group believe?

(same as you)

OPINION

5. Expand on sentence #4.

6. Thesis Statement

SPECIFIC

Body Paragraphs

Things you need to know before beginning:

* There are at least 3 body paragraphs.
* Each body paragraph must follow the same formula and use the same transitions.
* Each body paragraph must be 11 sentences long. If there are not 11 sentences, then you did not follow the formula!
* In each body paragraph, there are only 3 FACTS (called Concrete Details or Evidence)!

**The Body Paragraph Formula:**

Sentence #1

Sentence #2

Sentence #3

Sentence #4

Sentence #5

Sentence #6

Sentence #7

Sentence #8

Sentence #9

Sentence #10

Sentence #11

**[Topic Sentence]**

**(opinion)**

**[Concrete Detail]**

**(fact)**

**[Commentary]**

**(opinion)**

**[Commentary]**

**(opinion)**

**[Concrete Detail]**

**(fact)**

**[Commentary]**

**(opinion)**

**[Commentary]**

**(opinion)**

**[Concrete Detail]**

**(fact)**

**[Commentary]**

**(opinion)**

**[Commentary]**

**(opinion)**

**[Conclusion]**

**(opinion)**

*(Body 1): One reason why…*

*(Body 2): Another reason why…*

*(Body 3): Yet another reason why* \_\_(repeat THESIS STATEMENT here!)\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*For example, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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This sentence is an **opinion** about the concrete detail (**fact**).

This sentence is an **opinion** about the concrete detail (**fact**).

*In addition, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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This sentence is an **opinion** about the concrete detail (**fact**).

This sentence is an **opinion** about the concrete detail (**fact**).

*Furthermore, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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This sentence is an **opinion** about the concrete detail (**fact**).

This sentence is an **opinion** about the concrete detail (**fact**).

This sentence is an **opinion** that *sums up* your paragraph and **transitions**

into the next paragraph.

Conclusion Paragraph

(Things to Remember)

* Conclusion paragraph must be at least 40 words long.
* The conclusion paragraph must sum up the essay as a whole.
* The conclusion paragraph must restate the thesis.
* The conclusion paragraph is all **opinion.**