

## #6) Introductions, Body Paragraphs, and Conclusions

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### *Four Patterns for Introductions:*

1. You can write an introduction that begins by giving the reader some interesting information that everyone does not know but that has something to do with your thesis statement. For example, you might begin your essay with a quotation about the subject (or from the subject, if the subject is a person). Or, you might give some background information about the subject, moving from the general to the specific. You should give your thesis statement as the last or next-to-last sentence of your introduction.

2. Another pattern for writing an introduction is to begin by telling the reader an experience you or someone you know has had. The experience should be followed by a sentence or two showing the reader how that experience connects to what the essay is about. The thesis statement comes last in this type of introduction.

3. Another pattern is to begin with something the whole society is very concerned about (for example, child abuse, the national debt, boat people). You may add a sentence to explain exactly what the concern means. After that, you must add a sentence or two that leads the reader from the concern you mentioned to the subject of your essay. In another sentence or two, you must show that your essay has something to do with society's concern. One or two other sentences will let the reader know what angle your essay will take. Finally, you will state your thesis.

4. Another pattern for introductions is to promise something that everyone wants. For example, you might state that we could live longer and have a cleaner environment to live in if people would stop smoking. The next sentence or two must explain how the promise in the first sentence can come true. Follow this with a sentence that shows how the subject of the essay is connected to the promise. Another sentence is needed to let the reader understand what angle to expect the writer to take in the essay. Finally, the thesis should be stated.

### *Body Paragraphs:*

You need to think about three very important things as you prepare to write each of your body paragraphs: the structure of the paragraph; your intent for the paragraph; and the information you will put in the paragraph.

### *Exercise:*

1. Smoking is a disgusting habit, so no one should smoke. 2. The U.S. Surgeon General said smoking is an addiction. 3. We see just how much the smoker has to have a fix when a man tries to relight the short, soggy stub of a nasty old cigar; or when a mother nurses her baby with a cigarette dangling from her mouth. 4. It's sad to see a well-dressed, intelligent-looking person hunting everywhere for something to smoke or bumming a light. 5. Smoking is dirty, and it makes the smoker's breath stink. 6. I have known smokers who have left important affairs just to get a smoke. 7. Smoking is such a disgusting habit that no one should smoke.

Answer the following questions about the paragraph:

What is the structure of the paragraph? What is the topic sentence of this paragraph? What two things does the topic sentence of this paragraph show the reader? What did the writer want to do in this paragraph? Beginning with the second sentence in the paragraph, tell how each sentence helps makes the paragraph do what the writer wanted the paragraph to do. What words in the paragraph help the reader get the writer's message or feel the way the writer wanted the reader to feel?

### *Seven Patterns for Conclusions:*

1. One pattern stresses the most important point in your whole essay. If you choose this pattern, you will probably begin your conclusion with a sentence or two, restating the most important point you believe you made in the entire essay. Following the sentence or sentences about the most important point of your essay, you should add another sentence or two explaining why your most important point is so important. Your final sentence may repeat the thought of the thesis statement in different words.
2. Another pattern you can use for concluding your essay is to urge your reader to take some action. This type of conclusion may begin with the thesis statement. The next sentence or two sentences should show why more people need to believe the thesis and take some action to make it come true. The next sentence or two should tell the reader what to do to make the thesis come true.
3. Another pattern for concluding an essay is to summarize its important points. When you write this type of conclusion, each time you state one of the main ideas from the essay, add a sentence that says something about that main idea. You should restate the main thought of your thesis in either the first sentence or in the last sentence of the conclusion.
4. Another pattern is to make good (or bad) predictions, depending on whether people pay attention to your thesis statement. The first sentence of your conclusion will tell people the good (or bad) things that will happen if they follow your thesis statement. All other sentences will tell your readers the good (or bad) things that will happen if they take your thesis statement seriously.
5. You might conclude your essay by discussing the implications of the arguments and evidence you have presented. In other words, you can explain why what you've written is important.
6. An essay may also be concluded with a judgment based on the information presented. For example, you might end an essay on your college by evaluating whether the experience was essentially negative or positive.
7. If your essay is basically a description of an experience or of some person, place, or thing, an effective conclusion might consist of a statement of the dominant impression you have attempted to convey. For example, if your essay about your college is largely a description of what occurred to you when you were there, you might conclude with what you remember most clearly about the whole experience.