Writing a great Introduction

to an EXPOSITORY essay

Introduction Structure:

1. **Hook** or Attention-Grabber
2. **Bridge** **sentence(s)** connecting the hook to the thesis
3. **Thesis** or Controlling Idea

Conclusion Structure:

1. **Thesis** - different words put in a different way

2. **Bridge sentence(s)** connecting the thesis to the last sentence

3. **Ocean** or Clincher sentence – using words from the Hook to connect the topic to life

**Possible Hooks: SSQ – MAD**

* **S**urprising fact or statement

Ex: Not guns, not drugs, but cars are the main cause of teen deaths in this country.

Ex: Technology is overrated.

* **S**uspense: description of the topic that does not name it right away

Ex: It has no taste. It has no smell. It is lighter than air. It is carbon monoxide.

Ex: His head aching, his legs tired from pacing, he tries and tries to make a decision.

* **Q**uotation from a book, famous person, song, or movie

Ex: Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “The time is always right to do what’s right.”

Ex: “You can’t always get what you want” is not just true in a song; it’s true in life.

* **M**etaphor or simile (original comparison of 2 unlike things)

Ex: The Aplomado falcon, once common in Southwest prairies, is now a ghost.

Ex: Pursuing a dream is like running in a race with no finish line.

* **A**necdote (detailed description of an incident, 2-3 sentences)

Ex: On my way home from Walmart last week, I passed a lady holding a cardboard sign. She was tan and leathery with long grey hair. She was asking for money.

* **D**ialogue “in medias res” (spoken words from the middle of an action scene)

Ex: “Candy, can you tell us the answer to number 12?”

“Jus’ sec, Ms. Thomas – I’m on the phone.”

Ex: “Wait,” I called as my legs raced toward the yellow bus. “Wait for me!”

**Countdown to a Great Expository Intro**

5 Figure out the question. Read the quotation, statement, and prompt and think about each.

4 Brainstorm pros and cons. Make a list of ideas for one side vs. the other side.

3 Decide your side and write out your thesis.

2 Make a plan (outline), selecting evidence for each body paragraph.

(QFRAME + C: Quote - Fact - Reason – Anecdote – Metaphor – Example + Concession/ Counterarg.)

1 Pick your hook and write an intro that leads into your thesis.

**READ the following quotation.**

A famous businessman once said, “Players win games; teams win championships.”

**THINK carefully about the following statement.**

Sometimes you can accomplish good things by yourself but better things with other people**. WRITE an essay explaining whether it is better to work by yourself or with a group.**

Brainstorm: **Working alone** **Working with a group**

Circle your side and write your thesis (opinion statement).

~~I believe that~~ It is better to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in order to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Sample introduction:

**Hook**: “Remember TEAM: Together Each Achieves More!” yelled my coach. The players cheered.

**Bridge**: Even though teamwork may be important for sports teams, it can actually backfire, causing people to become lazy and irresponsible.

**Thesis**: In the long run, people are more successful if they work individually to achieve their own goals.

Hook: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Bridge: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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