ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Writing introductions

Difficulty level: Intermediate

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you open a piece of writing by engaging your reader, giving context, and stating your main point, like the first paragraph of an essay. An introduction has three jobs, to catch the reader, to give them the background they need, and to tell them the point you will argue. Doing all three in the opening paragraph means the reader knows why they are reading and where you are taking them. That is how an essay starts well, instead of starting with a sentence that leaves the reader wondering what it is about.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Write an introduction for an essay arguing that school should start later.

SOLUTION

Open with a hook that engages: many students struggle to wake up early.

Give brief context: sleep affects learning.

End with the thesis: School should start later so students can learn better.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Write an introduction for an essay about why reading matters.

SOLUTION

Open with a hook: books open new worlds.

Give brief context: reading builds knowledge and vocabulary.

End with the thesis: Reading matters because it builds knowledge, vocabulary, and focus.

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Practice questions

1 **Pick the best hook (first sentence) for an essay about ocean pollution.**

- **A** This essay is about ocean pollution.
- **B** Every year, millions of tonnes of plastic wash into the ocean.

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2 **Pick the best introduction for an essay arguing that school lunches should be free. Thesis: free school lunches help students learn. Context: many students cannot afford lunch.**

- **A** Free school lunches help students learn.
- **B** Many students arrive at school hungry. A hungry student cannot focus on lessons. Free school lunches help students learn.

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3 **Read this introduction: "The rainforest is home to half the species on Earth. Rainforests are being cut down every day. We must protect the rainforests." Which sentence is the hook (the first sentence, which catches the reader)?**

A The rainforest is home to half the species on Earth.

B Rainforests are being cut down every day.

C We must protect the rainforests.

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4 **Read this introduction: "Every night, the body and mind rest and recover. Sleep restores the body and mind for the next day. Sleep helps students learn." Which sentence gives the context (the background)?**

- **A** Every night, the body and mind rest and recover.
- **B** Sleep restores the body and mind for the next day.
- **C** Sleep helps students learn.

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5 **Read this introduction: "Robots already build our cars and clean our floors. Robots work in factories, hospitals, and homes." What is missing from this introduction?**

- **A** A hook
- **B** A thesis (main point)
- **C** Context (background)

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6 **Which of these sentences is a thesis (the main point of the essay), not a hook or context?**

- **A** Many towns have a lake, a river, or a pool nearby.
- **B** Water is all around us, and everyone should know how to stay safe in it.
- **C** Every student should learn to swim.

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7 **Read this introduction: "No one wins a game alone. Players pass, defend, and encourage each other. Teamwork is what turns a group of players into a winning team." Which sentence is the thesis (the main point)?**

- **A** No one wins a game alone.
- **B** Players pass, defend, and encourage each other.
- **C** Teamwork is what turns a group of players into a winning team.

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8 **The thesis of an essay is: learning a second language is useful. Which sentence would make the best hook (first sentence) for it?**

- **A** Learning a second language is useful.
- **B** A new language opens a new world of people and ideas.
- **C** People travel, work, and make friends across languages.

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9 **Which order makes a good introduction?**

- **A** Thesis, then context, then hook
- **B** Hook, then context, then thesis
- **C** Context, then thesis, then hook

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10 **Read this introduction: “Many people sit for most of the day. Dogs need daily walks too. Sitting all day leaves bodies stiff and minds tired. Exercise keeps the body and mind healthy.” Which sentence does NOT belong in this introduction?**

A Many people sit for most of the day.

B Dogs need daily walks too.

C Exercise keeps the body and mind healthy.

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ANSWER KEY

1. Every year, millions of tonnes of plastic wash into the ocean.
2. Many students arrive at school hungry. A hungry student cannot focus on lessons. Free school lunches help students learn.
3. The rainforest is home to half the species on Earth.
4. Sleep restores the body and mind for the next day.
5. A thesis (main point)
6. Every student should learn to swim.
7. Teamwork is what turns a group of players into a winning team.
8. A new language opens a new world of people and ideas.
9. Hook, then context, then thesis
10. Dogs need daily walks too.

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