

What you need in an Introduction

Check List

- An interesting hook (in the first sentence)
 - The title of the piece and author
- OR
- A reference to the prompt (quote, question, etc.)
 - A clear thesis that addresses the prompt in the last sentence
 - A logical progression of ideas, created with appropriate transitions and connections between sentences

Example

Hook: Current event → In some parts of the world, a cartoon can cause a riot and a joke can provoke bomb threats. This happened a few years ago when a Danish newspaper published cartoon caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad, igniting a firestorm in the Muslim world. **Luckily**, America is largely immune to such violent demonstrations against humor, offensive or otherwise. Some may say that this is because of the American guarantee of freedom of speech. **But** one of our greatest humorists would disagree. This humorist, Mark Twain, once said, "A discriminating irreverence is the creator and protector of human liberty," implying that it is pointed humor which created and protected human liberty rather than the other way around. Based on ***Twain's own writings*** and on those of his ***predecessors***, as well as ample evidence from ***comedy today***, it indeed is evident that "***discriminating irreverence***" plays a vital role in our ***free society***. ***Twain*** himself was a master at using his ***incisive humor*** to promote a more ***free society***. He most often accomplished this through satire, and his most famous satirical piece is *Huckleberry Finn*. In this book

This is a transition word. It starts a transition sentence that leads into the quote

Here's another

Here I've put in the actual quote and mentioned the author

This whole last sentence is the thesis. (The key words are bolded and italicized. The first 3 are the topics of the body paragraphs. The last 2 need to be in each topic sentence) Notice this thesis states a clear opinion because that's what the prompt asked for!

Types of Hooks

1. A quote (but NOT a "floating" quote!)
2. A startling fact or statistic
3. An anecdote (short story or narrative)
4. An analogy
5. A provocative question (without using "you!")
6. A paradox
7. A definition (it's better if it is your own, not one from a dictionary)
8. A summary of a current event
9. Humor (when appropriate)
10. A personal experience or observation (when appropriate)
11. A description of a place or person
12. Dialogue
13. "Twist wit" (Take a well-known saying and "twist" it to fit your topic)
14. A pun (type of humor)
15. A fragment (use ONLY if you know what you're doing!)