

WRITING THE INTRODUCTION

AN **EFFECTIVE** INTRODUCTION SHOULD:

- _____ the reader so that they want to _____ the rest of your essay
- Provide essential _____ about the topic
- Establish the _____ of the essay that will be discussed
- Set up the _____ or “_____” of the essay

BASIC ESSAY STRUCTURE

Introduction

- _____
- Bridge
- Thesis

Body Paragraphs
(Typically 3)

EACH MUST INCLUDE:

- _____
- Evidence
- Elaboration

Conclusion

- Restate _____
- Food for Thought

PARTS OF THE INTRODUCTION

- **HOOK:** the first 1-2 sentences intended to _____ the reader's _____ so that they want to read on
- **BRIDGE:** provides vital _____ information and links the _____ to the prompt and _____
- **THESIS STATEMENT:** a _____ that establishes the _____ of the essay and the _____ in which they will be discussed

GRAB ATTENTION WITH **THE HOOK**

- Make it _____ and thought-provoking—what kind of “bait” will lure in your reader?
- Give the reader a reason to _____ his or her time and energy into your writing
- Form an _____—readers will respond to even the driest of topics if presented in a way in which they can _____
- Start _____—save the _____ for your thesis and body paragraphs

TYPES OF HOOKS & EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE PROMPT: What are the dangers of over-relying on mobile apps?

1. **THOUGHT-PROVOKING DECLARATION**—a strong, interesting _____ related to your essay topic. **Example:** Never before in history has _____ held such power and utility in the palm of its hand.
2. **SIMILE or METAPHOR**—a direct _____ between your topic and something else
Example: Americans have come to depend on their mobile apps like ancient _____ relied on the _____ to navigate their world.
Example: In today's world, most Americans hold in their hands the technological equivalent of a _____.
3. **ANECDOTE**—a brief _____ related to your topic. **Example:** High schooler Ann Marie Geller recalls with _____ the day her father tried to plan the family _____ using, of all things, a *paper atlas*.
4. **DESCRIPTION**—_____ description of a scene or setting. **Example:** It is difficult to resist the lure of a brilliantly lit, palm-sized _____, twinkling with multicolored _____ begging to be tapped.

TYPES OF HOOKS & EXAMPLES cont'd

EXAMPLE PROMPT: What are the dangers of over-relying on mobile apps?

5. QUOTE—should be _____, memorable, and _____ to your topic. **Example:** Steven Spielberg once said, “Technology can be our _____, and technology can also be the biggest _____ of our lives.”

6. FACT OR STATISTIC—should be _____ or surprising and related to your topic. Cite _____. **Example:** According to a recent survey by Reviews.org, the average American checks his or her cell phone _____ times a day.

IMPORTANT:

Stay away from quotes, _____ or statistics that would be better used as _____ in your body paragraphs.

A QUESTION ABOUT QUESTIONS:

SHOULD A QUESTION BE USED AS HOOK FOR AN ESSAY?

ANSWER: _____.



RULE: Questions should only be used if they are truly _____.

YES: What is a more panic-inducing situation in our _____ world than the loss of a cell phone?

NO: Are _____ bad for you?

HOOK “DON'TS”

DO NOT

- _____ **YOUR ESSAY** in your hook. **Example:** In this _____, I am going to explain the dangers of phone apps.
- **USE ONOMOTOPOEIA**—may have worked in our younger years, but academic essays should be more _____ in tone. **Example:** Ring ring _____! Phones aren't just for _____ anymore!
- **MAKE EXAGGERATED, OVERLY _____ CLAIMS.** **Example:** Did you know that your phone is literally _____ you?
- **INTRODUCE YOUR _____**—save it for the end of the introduction
Example: Over-reliance on cell phone apps can damage users _____, emotionally, and physically.

BUILDING A BRIDGE

- The bridge is the _____ between the _____ and the thesis, defining the _____ between the two.
- It _____ how your hook is _____ to your thesis.
- It provides essential _____ information and context
- It slowly _____ and provides _____ to the essay's thesis

THE THESIS STATEMENT

THE MOST IMPORTANT SENTENCE OF YOUR ESSAY.

- It is _____ that holds together the entire _____.
- Directly answers the _____.
- Controls the _____ of the essay
- Establishes the _____ or “_____” of the essay
- A _____ sentence—the _____ sentence of the introduction
- Everything in the essay should _____ and help _____ the thesis statement



THE THREE-PRONGED THESIS

- Answers the _____, establishing your position on the topic
- Lists 3 main _____ within your thesis statement that support your main position
- Sets up a logical _____ of your entire essay
- Each supporting point becomes a _____ within the body of the essay

EXAMPLE:

An over-reliance on mobile apps can damage users socially, emotionally, and physically.

Topic Sentence 1

Topic Sentence 2

Topic Sentence 3

Finish this three-pronged thesis statement: Students should participate in extracurricular activities because _____

THESIS STATEMENT “DON'Ts”

- _____ **YOUR THESIS:** “In this essay, I am going to tell you about apps...” (This is _____; just do it!)
- **MAKE YOUR THESIS A** _____: “In 1997, Nokia created the game ‘Snake’ which is considered the first mobile app.” (Leaves the essay with nothing to _____ since it’s already factual.)
- **MAKE YOUR THESIS A** _____: “How exactly do phone apps impact the user?” (Your thesis should _____ the question/prompt, not leave it open to the reader.)

DO NOT

WRITING A HOOK *Practice Activity*

INSTRUCTIONS: Essay hooks are a great way to draw in your readers and make them want to read the rest of your essay. For this activity, read the prompt below, then in the table, write **THREE** hooks of your choice related to the topic. Have fun and be creative!

PROMPT: Students around the country report that they are feeling more overwhelmed than ever by a grueling school workload. Write an essay in which you explain the effects of academic overload.

Type of Hook (Choose 3)	YOUR HOOK
THOUGHT- PROVOKING DECLARATION	
SIMILE OR METAPHOR	
ANECDOTE	
DESCRIPTION	
QUOTE	
FACT OR STATISTIC	
THOUGHT- PROVOKING QUESTION	

IDENTIFY HOOK, BRIDGE & THESIS

Instructions: To better understand the organization of an introduction and how a bridge works to link the hook to the thesis, identify the parts of the introduction in the examples below, using highlighters, colored pencils, or different types of lines. Be sure to first create a key at the bottom to properly identify your annotations.

1

Never before in history has humanity held such power and utility in the palm of its hand. Thanks to the miracle of technology, and some nifty tools called “apps,” we can now live much of our lives through the screen of our cell phone. From map navigation, news, and banking to social networking, music, and games, our phone apps have become integral to our everyday lives. But at what cost? Researchers have begun to study the effects of our dependence on our apps, and the news is not all good. A heavy dependence on phone apps can lead to distraction, social alienation, and a lack of self-reliance.

HOOK:

BRIDGE:

THESIS:

2

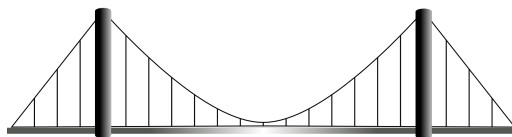
High schooler Ann Marie Geller recalls with amusement the day her father tried to plan the family vacation using, of all things, a *paper* atlas. Geller, and most teens like her, cannot imagine a world in which simple tasks require more than just a tap of a finger. And it is not just teens; most of the world has become accustomed to doing its trip planning, socializing, banking, shopping, game-playing and more through the colorful boxes on their cell phone called mobile apps. However, there is a price for such convenience. An over-reliance on cell phone apps can damage the user socially, emotionally and even physically.

HOOK:

BRIDGE:

THESIS:

BUILDING A BRIDGE



INSTRUCTIONS: Read the prompt provided. Then, read the essay hook examples and their corresponding thesis statements. For each example, create a bridge that smoothly connects the hook to the thesis.

PROMPT: Students around the country report that they are feeling more overwhelmed than ever by a grueling school workload. Write an essay in which you explain the effects of academic overload.

HOOK: High school sophomore, Lily Jackson, stares at her computer screen wearily, wondering where to start: write the English essay due tomorrow, study for her AP history exam, finish her math homework?

BRIDGE: _____

THESIS STATEMENT: Academic overload can lead to increased stress, physical problems and sleep difficulties among students.

HOOK: A recent study by Stanford University indicates that nearly 6 in 10 students consider homework as the main source of stress and anxiety in their lives.

BRIDGE: _____

THESIS STATEMENT: An overly heavy academic workload can damage mental health, increase social isolation, and, ironically, diminish learning.

Name: _____ Period: _____

Finish the Introduction

WRITE A THESIS STATEMENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Finish the introductory paragraph below by writing a thesis statement that answers the prompt: **What are the dangers of over-relying on mobile apps?**

In today's world, most Americans hold in their hands the technological equivalent of a Swiss army knife. Thanks to mobile apps, our cell phones can perform almost any task imaginable—from buying groceries and socializing with friends to managing finances and navigating the world. In fact, some might say that we have developed an almost unhealthy reliance on our mobile apps, and now there is research to prove it.

THESIS: _____

Name: _____ Period: _____

Finish the Introduction

WRITE A THESIS STATEMENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Finish the introductory paragraph below by writing a thesis statement that answers the prompt: **What are the dangers of over-relying on mobile apps?**

In today's world, most Americans hold in their hands the technological equivalent of a Swiss army knife. Thanks to mobile apps, our cell phones can perform almost any task imaginable—from buying groceries and socializing with friends to managing finances and navigating the world. In fact, some might say that we have developed an almost unhealthy reliance on our mobile apps, and now there is research to prove it.

THESIS: _____

THESIS STATEMENT *Writing Activities*

PART 1 INSTRUCTIONS: Choose **THREE** topics from the list below. For each topic, write a clear, 3-pronged thesis statement that directly answers the prompt and provides a road map for the reader.

TOPICS: CHOOSE THREE

- What are the long-term effects of fast food?
- How can we prevent mass shootings?
- How can we address cyberbullying?
- What are the best ways to manage stress?
- How does music affect student schoolwork?
- Should animal testing be banned?
- Should teachers accept late work?
- Is social media bad for relationships?
- Should students be paid for good grades?
- Which is better: in-class or online learning?

Thesis Statements: Write them below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

PART 2 INSTRUCTIONS: In the space below, choose **ONE** of the thesis statements you wrote in the previous activity and write it in the space provided. Based on your thesis statement, create three topic sentences, one for each body paragraph that establishes its main idea and reflects back to the reasons in your thesis.

**THESIS
STATEMENT:**

Topic
Sentence 1

Topic
Sentence 2

Topic
Sentence 3

Writing an Introduction

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the prompt provided. Then, write an introduction to an essay that responds to the prompt, making sure to include a **hook**, **bridge** and **thesis statement**. Finally, **score your introduction** using the rubric below.

PROMPT: Disappointment, that sad feeling when something falls short of expectations, is a part of life. But is there a positive side? Write an essay in which you explain the benefits of disappointment.

HOOK: _____

BRIDGE: _____

THESIS STATEMENT: _____

RUBRIC: SCORE YOURSELF

	Expert 4-5	Apprentice 2-3	Novice 0-1
Hook	Hook is interesting and makes reader want to read on. It effectively uses one of the strategies studied.	Hook is somewhat interesting. It may use a strategy studied but needs additional work.	Hook is not interesting. Does not entice reader to read more. May or may not use a strategy studied. Try again!
Bridge	Bridge explains the relevance of the hook and makes a smooth, logical transition from the hook to the thesis statement.	Bridge may explain the relevance of the hook; however, the transition to the thesis could be smoother.	Bridge does not explain the relevance of the hook nor smoothly transition to the thesis.
Thesis	Thesis is clear, directly answers the prompt, and sets up an easy-to-follow organization for the essay.	Thesis is somewhat clear, related to prompt and may or may not set up a roadmap for the essay.	Thesis is unclear, may not directly answer the prompt, and/or does not set up a clear roadmap for essay.
Score:			