

Introductions

- **PURPOSE:** The purpose of the introductory paragraph is to introduce your reader to the text that you are interpreting (always include the title and author) , your argument, your reasoning, and to hint at the larger significance of your argument.
- **HOOK:** An introduction should catch the reader's attention and make them want to read more--above all, avoid beginning with a vague, boring, lackluster sentence. Instead, use a hook to grab your reader's interest.
- **FRAME:** Make sure that you "frame" your argument: this means that you should present it in such a way that you emphasize the risk you are taking. One easy way to do this is to contrast your argument with a more obvious interpretation of the book.
- **ARGUMENT AND REASONING:** After you present your thesis, spend the next couple of sentences elaborating on your reasoning—explain its importance, and maybe hint at the evidence that will come. Make sure to offer some pertinent details from the text in this portion of your introduction
- **LARGER SIGNIFICANCE:** The final sentence of your introduction should end on a note of larger significance. After introducing your argument and providing pertinent details such as your reasoning and your "roadmap," return to your larger argument and hint at its larger, global significance.
- **FINE-TUNING:** An introduction should be written in strong, concise, and arguable language; think of it as a lawyer's opening statement. Aim for shorter sentences over long ones. Finally, you should always revise and fine tune your introduction *after* you have finished writing the essay.