**Introduction Paragraph**

**An introduction paragraph should be no shorter than 3 sentences (because a paragraph is AT LEAST three sentences), and no longer than 5 or 6 (because then you are likely talking too much). Introduction paragraphs start with a very general idea, and finish with a very specific idea (like a mountain). Follow this basic template to structure your introduction paragraph.**

**Opening** *(1-3 sentences introduces the GENERAL idea of your essay. Perhaps a definition, a revealing quote, a brief excerpt from class notes…)*

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**Narrower Focus** *(1-3 sentences that clearly state the title(s) and author(s) of the work(s) you are discussing in your essay. This is not a list, but a connection between the writers and the topic you are writing about…)*

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**Thesis Statement** *(1-2 sentences that contain a* ***subject*** *– what you are writing about – and an* ***opinion*** *– what you think or chose to argue about the subject. The thesis should “answer” your prompt question…)*

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