
INTRODUCTIONS WORKSHEET

An effective introduction has 3 parts: the Hook, O/P statement, and Plan statement.

I. The Hook

*This is where you grab the reader's attention and set off some sort of emotional response about the topic – a PATHOS appeal. There are several ways to write a hook. For your argument, you **must** use one of the options below.*

- a. Startling Information – A **fact** that is true, verifiable, and pertinent/relevant to your topic.

Example:

Experts say the average person lies a total of 3 times in a 10-minute conversation. This statistic is absolutely absurd. If everyone is telling so many lies, no one can trust family or friends.

On the lines below, write a hook for your introduction that uses startling information.

- b. Anecdote – A **short story** that demonstrates something related to your topic. This might be a personal story or one that you found when you were looking for evidence.

Example:

When George Washington was about six years old he was given a hatchet. Like most boys would be, Washington was fond of cutting down everything in site, including his dad's prized cherry tree. When his angry father asked who cut down his tree, young Washington replied, "I cannot tell a lie, Father. I cut down your cherry tree." The anger died down in his father's face and he said, "My son, for you to tell the truth is more to me than a thousand trees!"

On the lines below, write a hook for your introduction that uses an anecdote.

c. A Quotation – A meaningful quote from a credible source about your topic.

Example:

Thomas Jefferson said, “He who permits himself to tell a lie once, finds it easier to do it a second time.” Lying can snowball into something that quickly gets out of control.

On the lines below, write a hook for your introduction that uses a quotation.

Share your three hooks with a peer or parent.

Draw a star in the margin next to the hook you think BEST captures your reader’s attention.

II. The O/P Statement

This is where you clearly state your claim for your reader. Your hook is what grabs the reader and possibly gives some background information about the topic. The O/P statement tells him/her what your position is on the topic/issue.

Some O/P Examples:

- **Even though experts reveal that most people lie at least twice a day, lying in any form is morally wrong.**
- **When people lie, they lose the respect of those around them.**
- **If people constantly tell lies, eventually no one will trust them.**

On the lines below, write **two** O/P Statement that clearly state your position (claim) about your topic.

Share your two claim statements with a peer or parent.

Draw a star in the margin next to the **CLEAREST statement of your claim.**

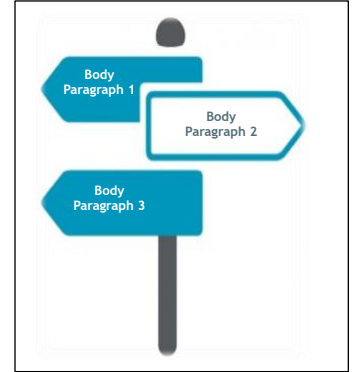
III. The Plan Statement

This sentence tells the reader the exact order in your essay of your reasons for your position. It is the “map” for what comes next in the body paragraphs. The reasons should be listed from weakest reason to strongest reason. (So you will be ending with the strongest reason supporting your claim.)

Example:

Telling lies is wrong for many reasons, but most importantly because it ruins friendships, hurts feelings, and tarnishes reputations.

- 1) ... it ruins friendships = body paragraph 1
- 2) ... hurts feelings = body paragraph 2
- 3) ... tarnishes reputations = body paragraph 3



On the lines below, write a **PLAN STATEMENT** that lists the order of the reasons for your claim from weakest to strongest.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

On the lines below, write the complete introduction for your argument.

When you finish, underline the hook in BLUE, the O/P Statement in GREEN, and the Plan Statement in YELLOW.