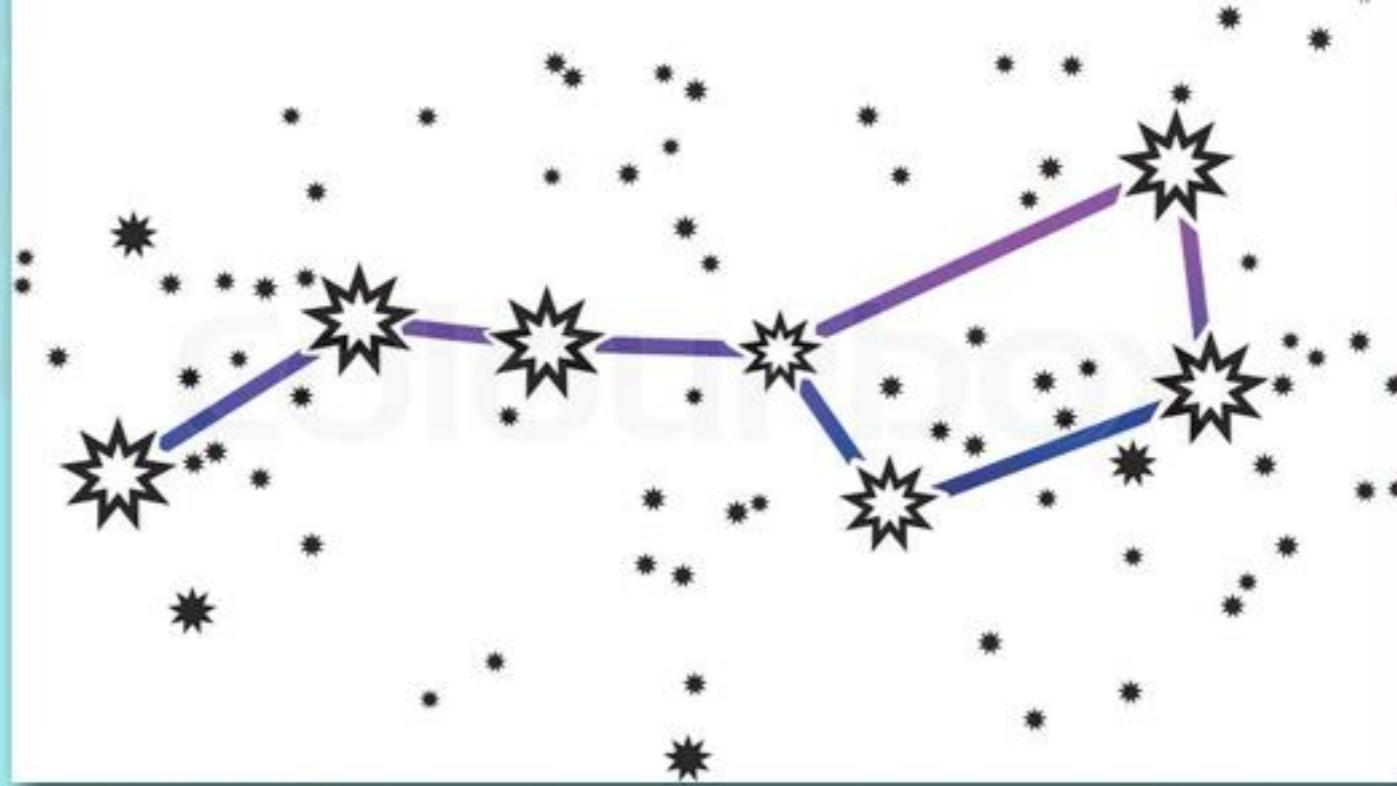


# Introductory Paragraphs

The “HOOK”  
The THESIS  
The POINTS

**CONNECTING THE DOTS!**



# Introductory Paragraphs

The “HOOK” - catches reader’s interest to keep them reading

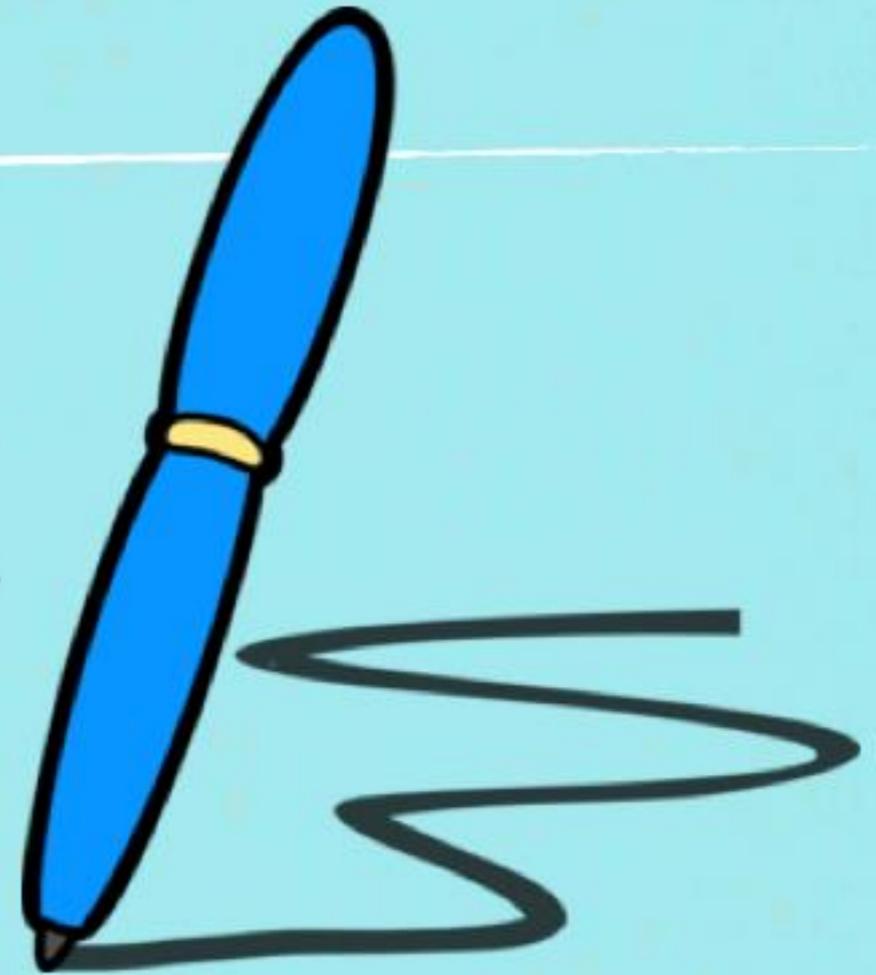
The THESIS - the ONE message you are sharing

The POINTS - the subtopics of the thesis; they help support your message

**CONNECTING THE DOTS!**

So you have to write an essay...

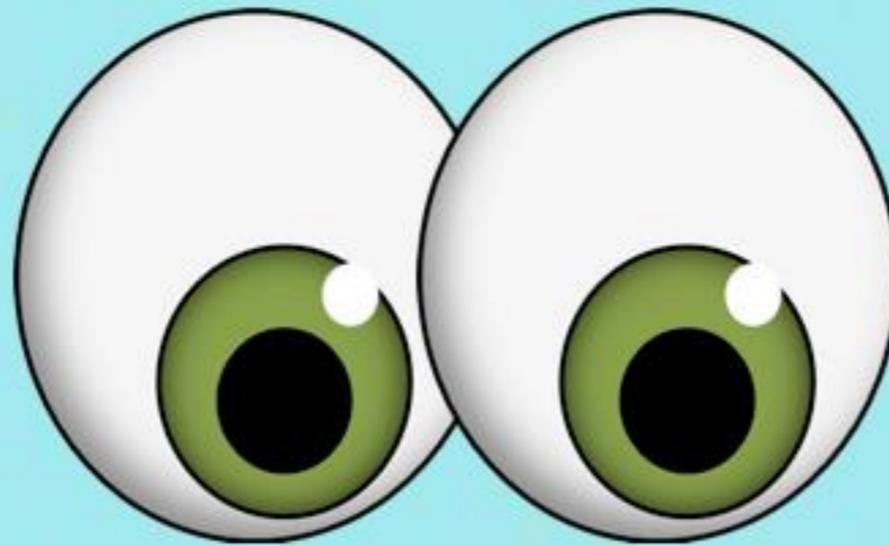
Let's say you are given the topic as follows....



**Friends are important, but everyone has a different opinion of what makes a good friend. Explain what makes a good friend.**

# Let's break it down...

Look for the key words in the prompt and make a thesis statement from them.



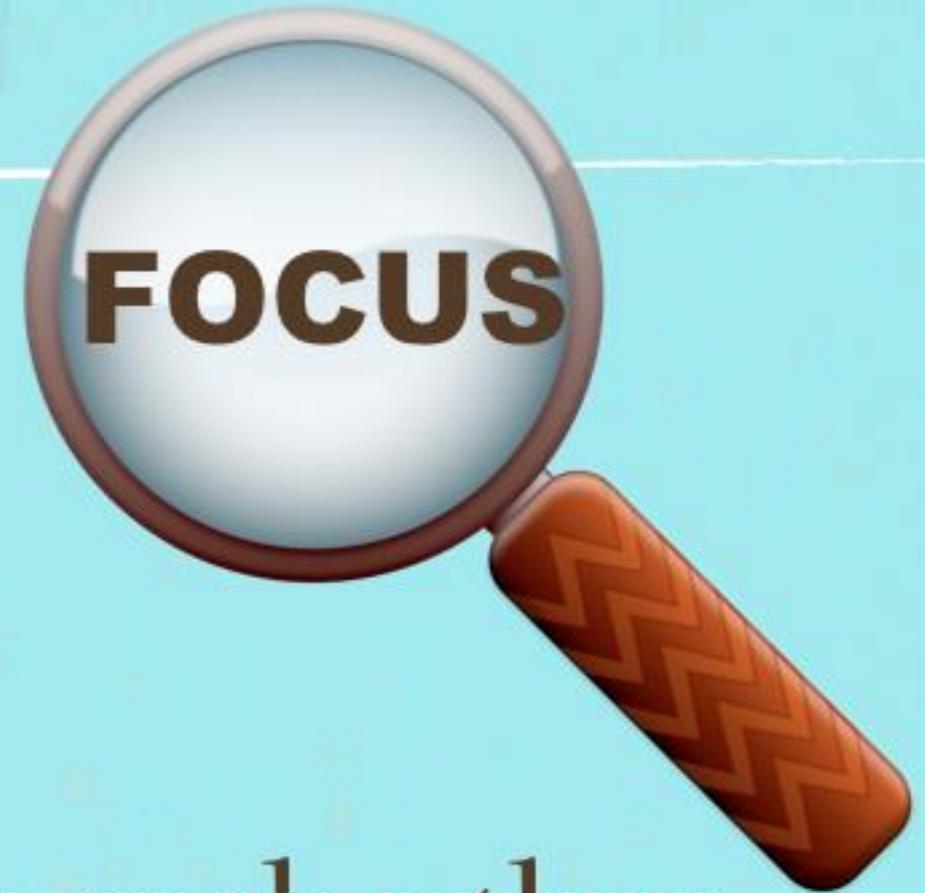
**Friends are important, but everyone has a different opinion of what makes a good friend. Explain what makes a good friend.**

Explain = **expository** essay  
no persuasion, **just**  
**information**

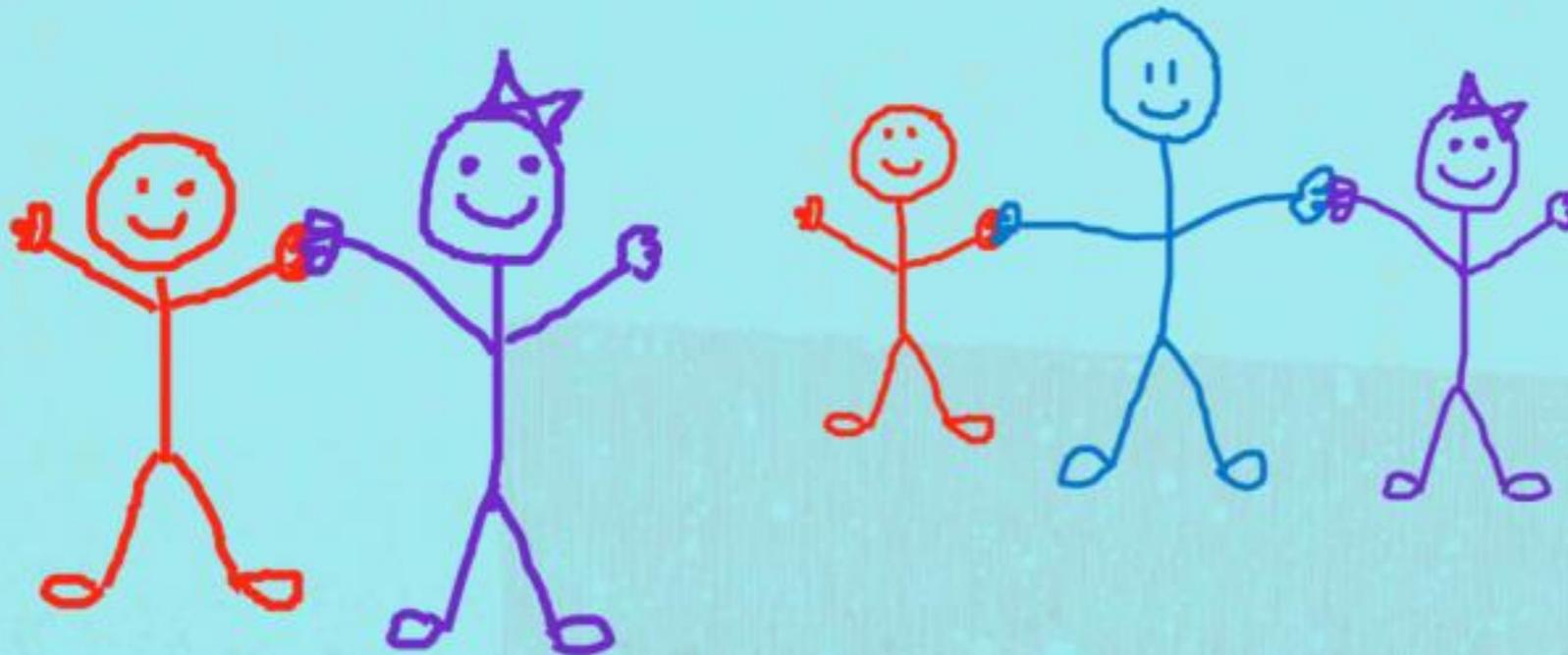
True friends **care** about each other.

# Thesis = focus of essay

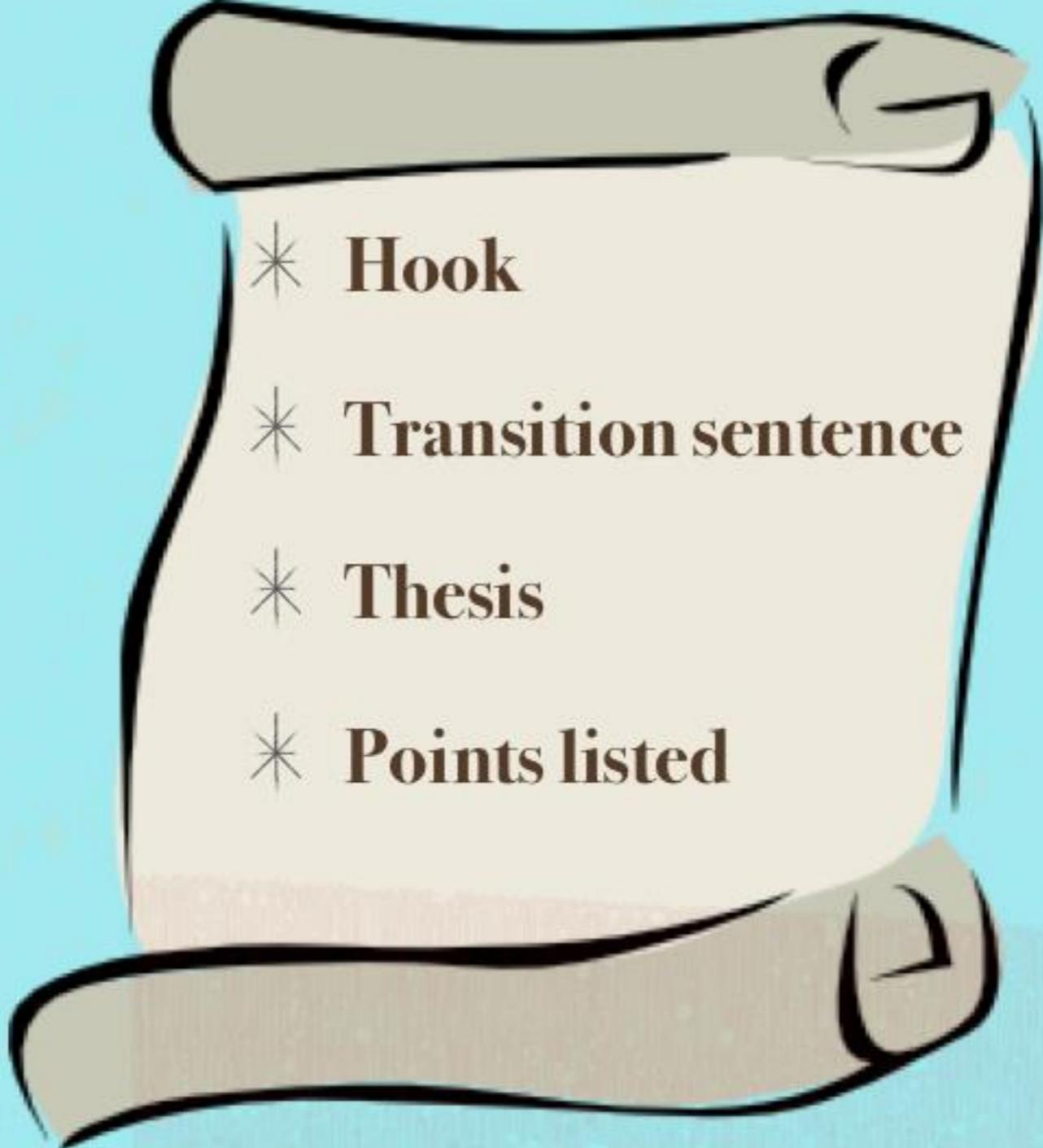
The thesis statement...



True friends care about each other.



# What an Introductory Paragraph MUST Have:

- 
- \* **Hook**
  - \* **Transition sentence**
  - \* **Thesis**
  - \* **Points listed**

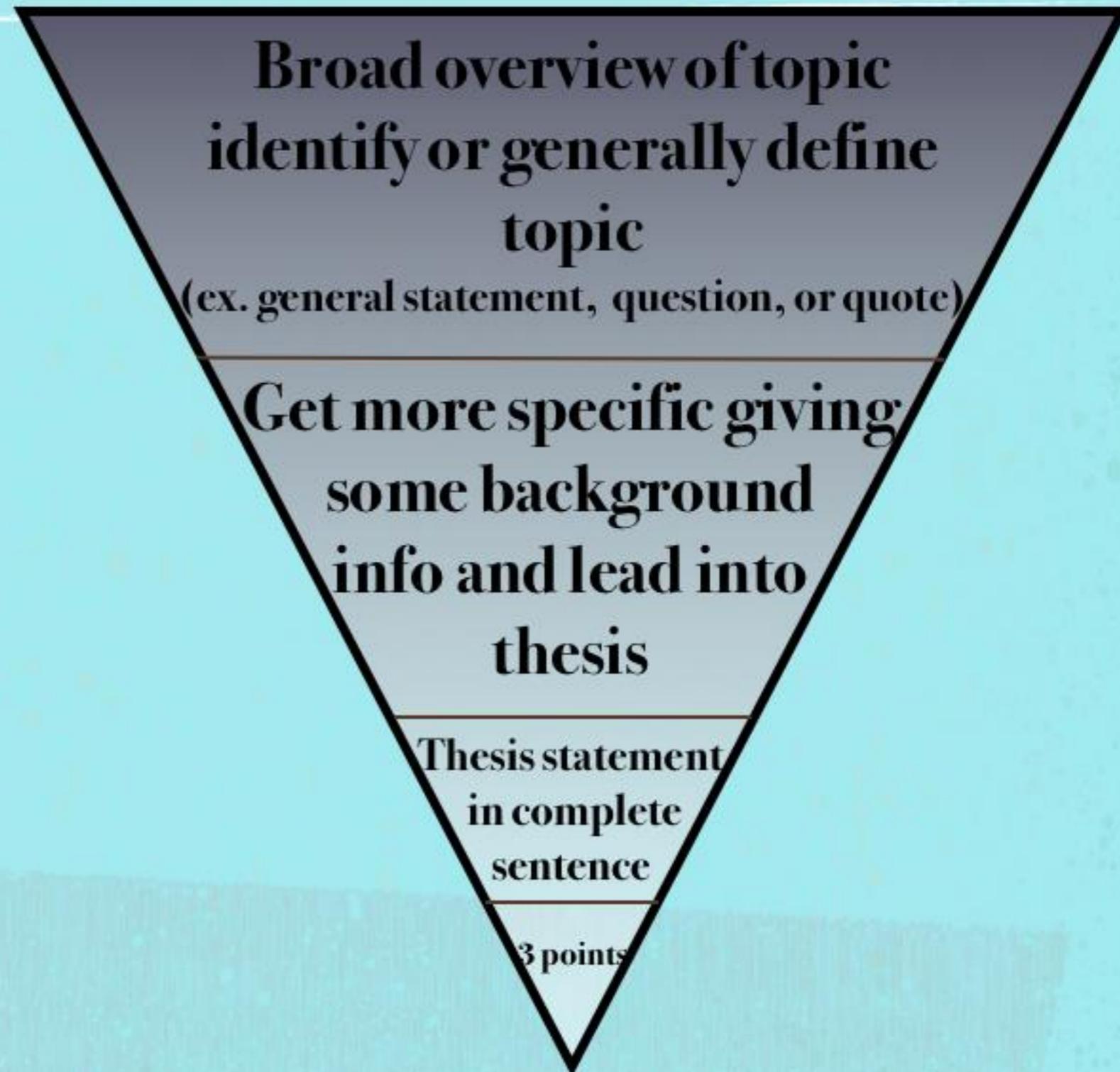
# 5 Types of Hooks:

1. Inverted Pyramid
2. Fact or Statistic
3. Anecdote or Personal Experience
4. Rhetorical Question
5. Bold Pronouncement



**...now let's look at an intro with each hook...**

# Intro with Inverted Pyramid



# Intro with Inverted Pyramid

**What I  
really want  
to say, need  
a lead**

**True friends care about one another.**

**Broad overview of topic  
identify or generally define  
topic**

(ex. general statement, question, or quote)

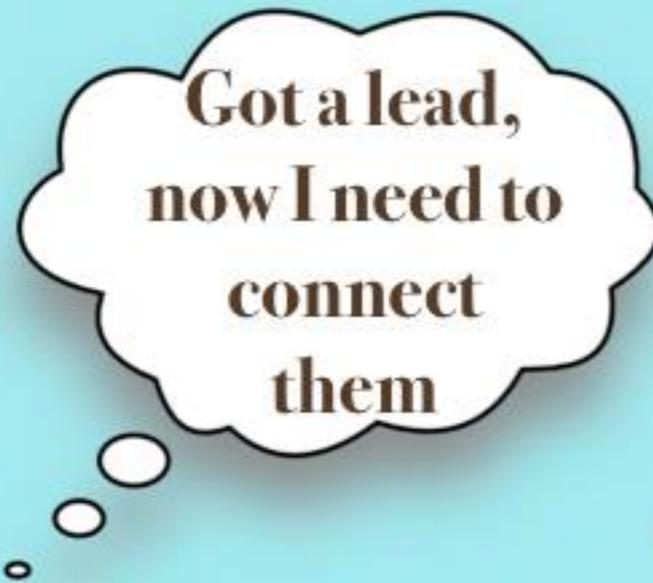
**Get more specific giving  
some background  
info and lead into  
thesis**

**Thesis statement  
in complete  
sentence**

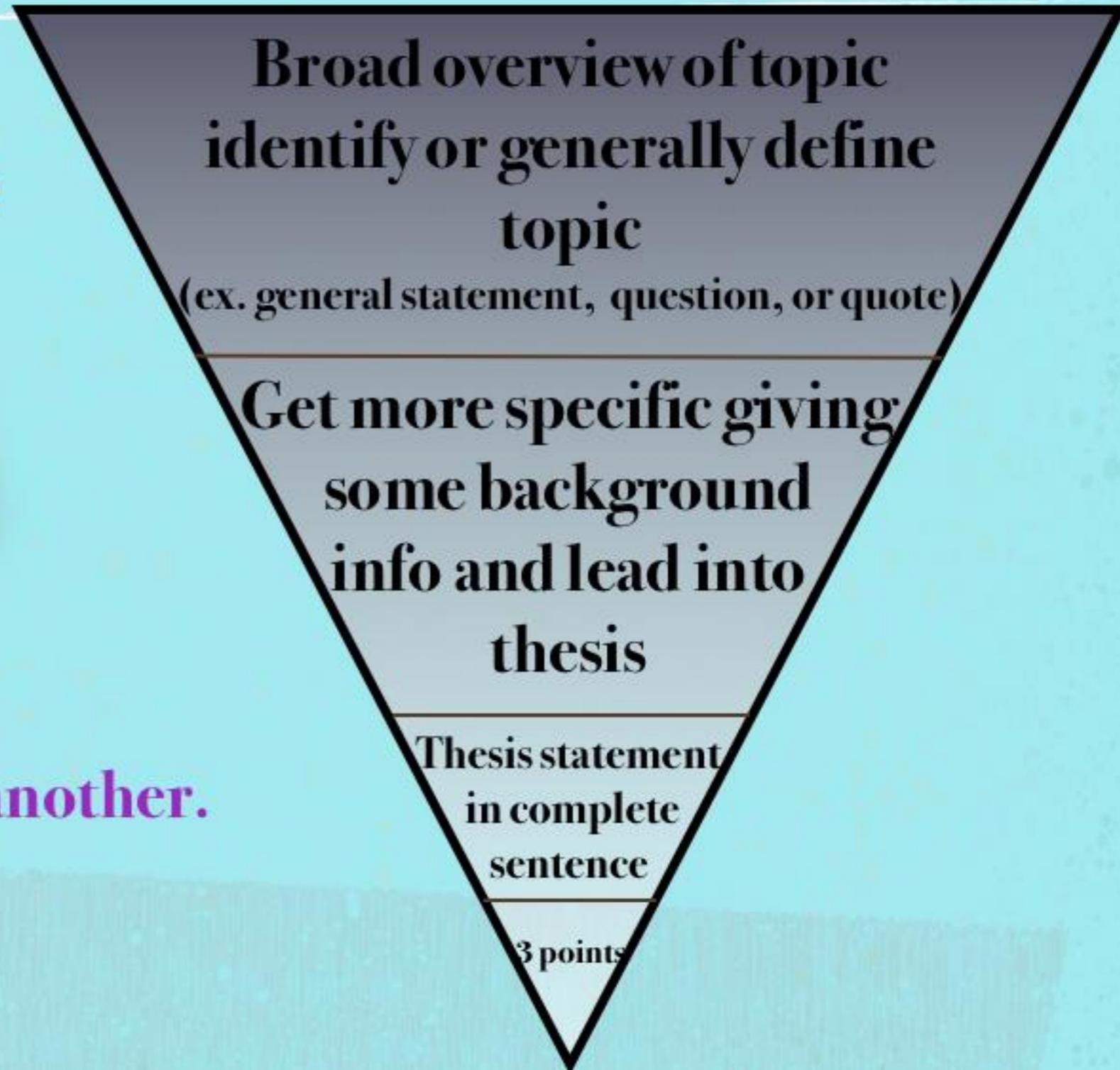
**3 points**

# Intro with Inverted Pyramid

**“Friends are like stars,” so is said.**



**True friends care about one another.**

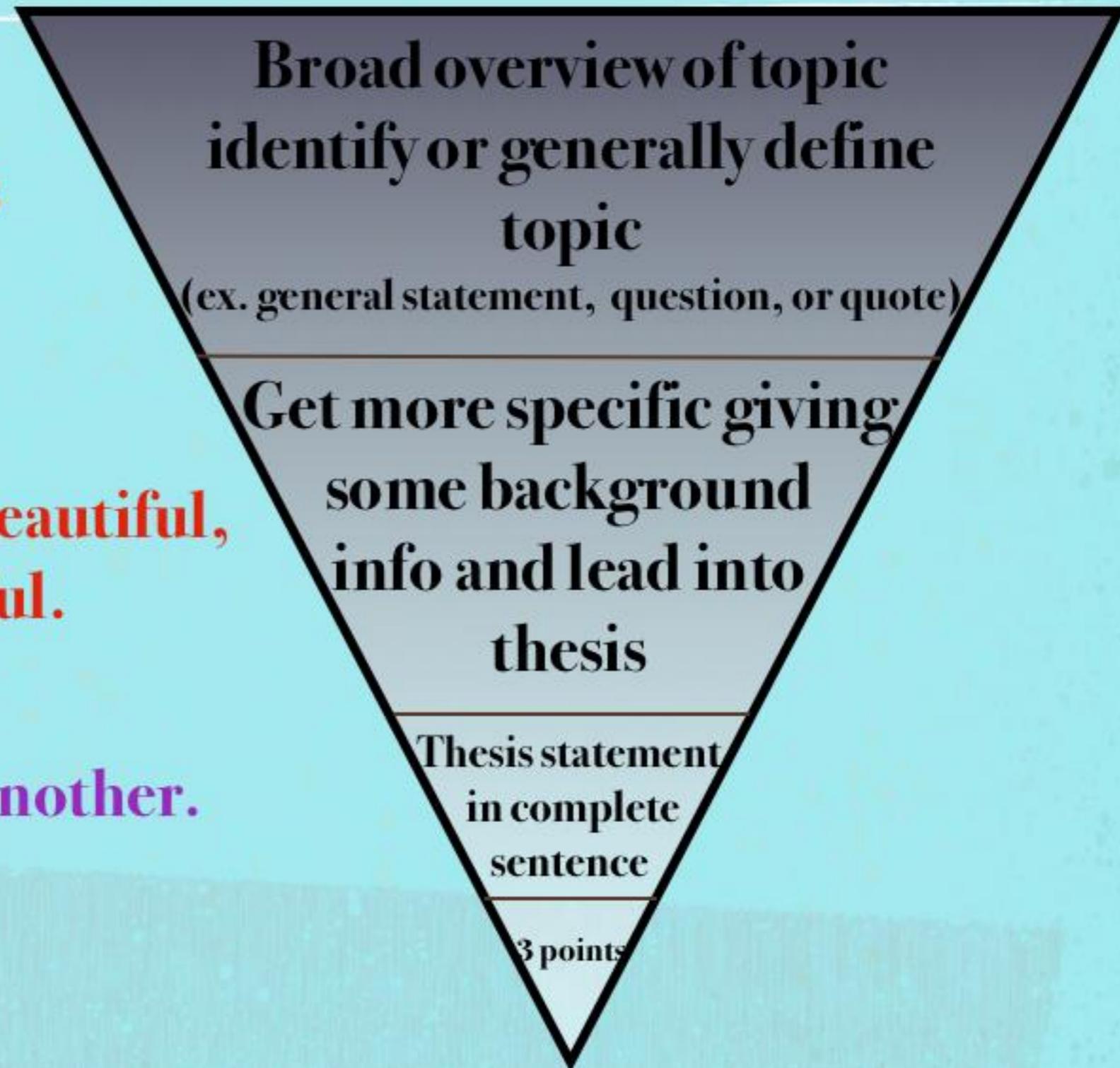


# Intro with Inverted Pyramid

**“Friends are like stars,” so is said.**

**Just as stars make the night beautiful, friendship makes life beautiful.**

**True friends care about one another.**



# Intro with Inverted Pyramid

CONNECT THE DOTS!

**“Friends are like stars,” so is said.**

**Just as stars make the night beautiful, friendship makes life beautiful.**

**True friends care about one another.**

**Broad overview of topic  
identify or generally define  
topic**

(ex. general statement, question, or quote)

**Get more specific giving  
some background  
info and lead into  
thesis**

**Thesis statement  
in complete  
sentence**

**3 points**

**Now, what  
characteristics of a  
friend show he  
cares?**

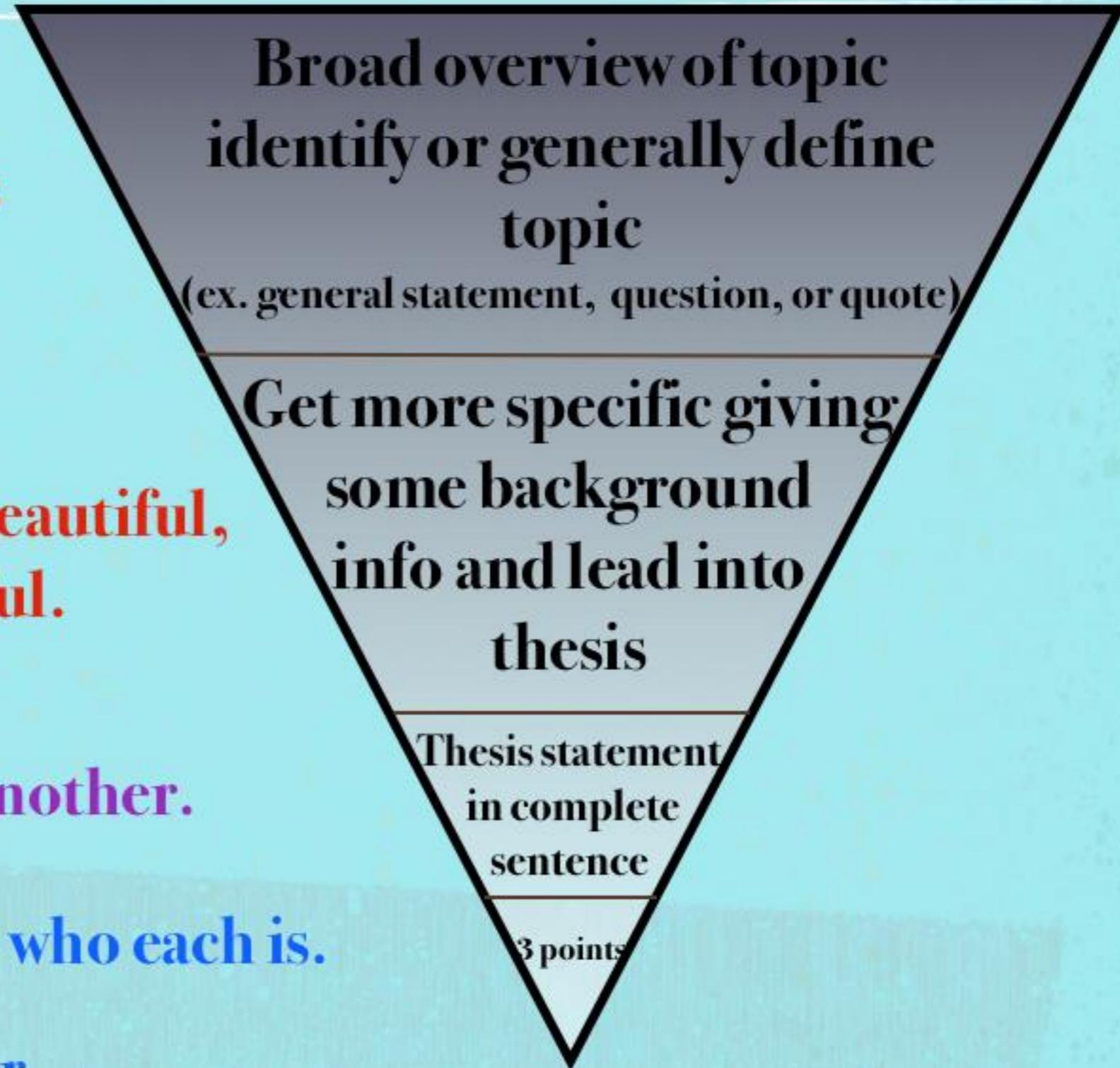
# Intro with Inverted Pyramid

**“Friends are like stars,” so is said.**

**Just as stars make the night beautiful, friendship makes life beautiful.**

**True friends care about one another.**

**Friends accept each other for who each is.  
Friends are helpful.  
Friends are loyal to each other.**



# Intro with Inverted Pyramid

CONNECT THE DOTS!

**“Friends are like stars,” so is said.**

**Just as stars make the night beautiful, friendship makes life beautiful.**

**True friends care about one another.**

**Friends accept each other for who each is.  
Friends are helpful.  
Friends are loyal to each other.**

**Broad overview of topic  
identify or generally define  
topic**  
(ex. general statement, question, or quote)

**Get more specific giving  
some background  
info and lead into  
thesis**

**Thesis statement  
in complete  
sentence**

**3 points**

# Intro with Inverted Pyramid



This is what your  
intro paragraph  
will look like.

**“Friends are like stars,” so is said. Just as stars make the night beautiful, friendship makes life beautiful. True friends care about one another. Friends accept each other for who each is. Friends are helpful. Friends are loyal to each other.**

# Let's Practice!

Write an intro paragraph for ONE of these prompts.

1. The internet is a popular form of communication and learning. Choose one platform on the internet that provides information to users and promotes learning as well. Explain how that platform is beneficial to its users.
2. Choose a book or TV show that is popular today. Explain why the book or TV show is popular.
3. Everyone eventually decides what career to pursue as an adult. Tell what career you'd like to pursue and why you choose it.

# Intro with Fact or Statistic

**Fact/Statistic**

**Transition**

**Thesis**

**Points**

# Intro with Fact or Statistic

**Fact/Statistic**

**Transition**

**Thesis**

**Points**

**What I  
really want  
to say, need  
a fact**

**True friends care about each other.**

# Intro with Fact or Statistic

**Fact/Statistic**

A 2004 study published in the American Sociological Review revealed that the average number of trusted friends fell by a third in the past 20 years and the proportion of people with no confidants had doubled.

**Transition**

Got a fact,  
now I need to  
connect  
them

**Thesis**

True friends care about each other.

**Points**

# Intro with Fact or Statistic

**Fact/Statistic**

A 2004 study published in the American Sociological Review revealed that the average number of trusted friends fell by a third in the past 20 years and the proportion of people with no confidants had doubled.

**Transition**

How can one know if a friendship will last? The key is finding a true friend.

**Thesis**

True friends care about each other.

**Points**

# Intro with Fact or Statistic

CONNECT THE DOTS!

Fact/Statistic

A 2004 study published in the American Sociological Review revealed that the average number of trusted friends fell by a third in the past 20 years and the proportion of people with no confidants had doubled.

Transition

How can one know if a friendship will last? The key is finding a true friend.

Thesis

True friends care about each other.

Points

Now, what characteristics of a friend show he cares?

# Intro with Fact or Statistic

**Fact/Statistic**

A 2004 study published in the *American Sociological Review* revealed that the average number of trusted friends fell by a third in the past 20 years and the proportion of people with no confidants had doubled.

**Transition**

How can one know if a friendship will last? The key is finding a true friend.

**Thesis**

True friends care about each other.

**Points**

Friends accept each other for who each is.  
Friends are helpful.  
Friends are loyal to each other.

# Intro with Fact or Statistic

CONNECT THE DOTS!

**Fact/Statistic**

A 2004 study published in the American Sociological Review revealed that the average number of trusted friends fell by a third in the past 20 years and the proportion of people with no confidants had doubled.

**Transition**

How can one know if a friendship will last? The key is finding a true friend.

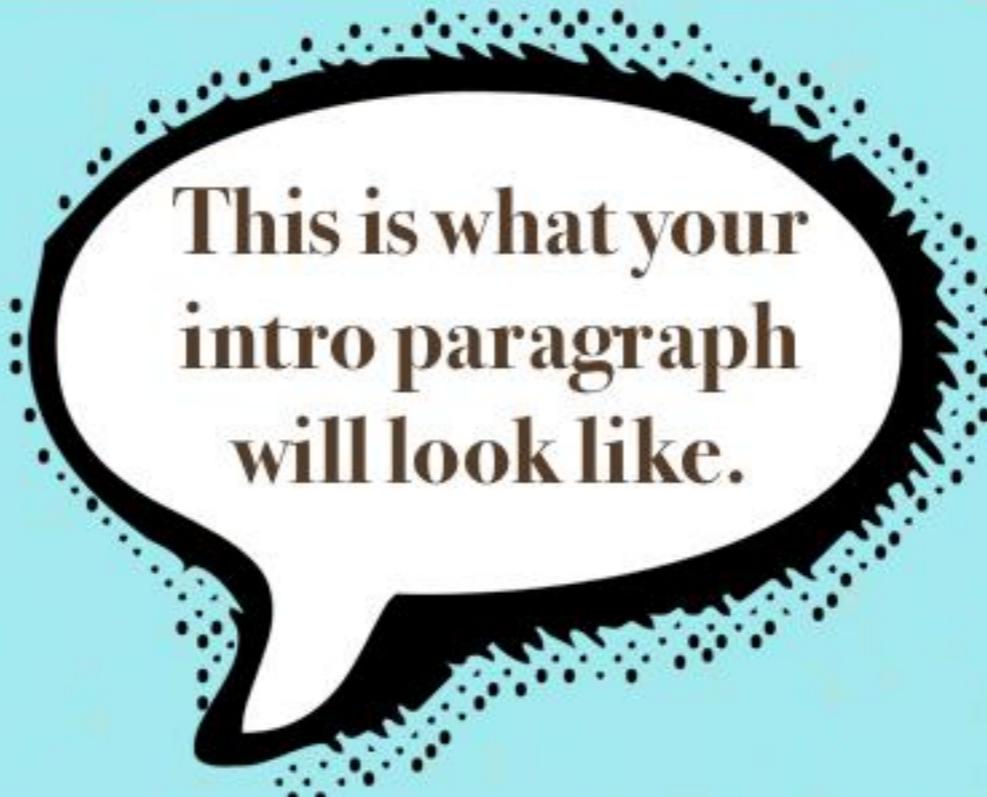
**Thesis**

True friends care about each other.

**Points**

- Friends accept each other for who each is.
- Friends are helpful.
- Friends are loyal to each other.

# Intro with Fact or Statistic



**This is what your  
intro paragraph  
will look like.**

**A 2004 study published in the American Sociological Review revealed that the average number of trusted friends fell by a third in the past 20 years and the proportion of people with no confidants had doubled. How can one know if a friendship will last? The key is finding a true friend. True friends care about one another. Friends accept each other for who each is. Friends are helpful. Friends are loyal to each other.**

# Let's Practice!

Write an intro paragraph for ONE of these prompts.

1. The internet is a popular form of communication and learning. Choose one platform on the internet that provides information to users and promotes learning as well. Explain how that platform is beneficial to its users.
2. Choose a book or TV show that is popular today. Explain why the book or TV show is popular.
3. Everyone eventually decides what career to pursue as an adult. Tell what career you'd like to pursue and why you choose it.

# Intro with Anecdote or Personal Experience

**First what is an anecdote?**



definition: a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person

**What you need to remember:** amusing story about someone else

**What is a personal experience?** a short amusing story about you



# Intro with Anecdote or Personal Experience

**Story (REALLY  
SHORT!)**

**Transition**

**Thesis**

**Points**

# Intro with Anecdote or Personal Experience

**Story (REALLY SHORT!)**

**Transition**

**Thesis**

**Points**

What I  
really want to say,  
need a quick  
story

True friends care about each other.

# Intro with Anecdote or Personal Experience

**Story (REALLY SHORT!)**

It was Mary's birthday. She made sure all her friends were invited to the party. One friend asked her to stop by after school because the friend had a gift for her. Mary walked the few blocks to her friend's house. The friend burst out the door beaming. She plopped five Hersey's kisses into Mary's hand. The little girl looked down at the kisses. The friend said, "I didn't have any money. This is all I have. I hope you like it." Mary smiled and said, "Thank you! I love chocolate! Want one?" She handed a kiss to the friend as they walked back to the Mary's house for the party.

**Transition**

Got a story,  
now I need to  
connect  
them

**Thesis**

**True friends care about each other.**

**Points**

# Intro with Anecdote or Personal Experience

**CONNECT THE DOTS!**

**Story (REALLY  
SHORT!)**

It was Mary's birthday. She made sure all her friends were invited to the party. One friend asked her to stop by after school because the friend had a gift for her. Mary walked the few blocks to her friend's house. The friend burst out the door beaming. She plopped five Hersey's kisses into Mary's hand. The little girl looked down at the kisses. The friend said, "I didn't have any money. This is all I have. I hope you like it." Mary smiled and said, "Thank you! I love chocolate! Want one?" She handed a kiss to the friend as they walked back to the Mary's house for the party.

**Transition**

**Friends may not have much, but they  
have each other.**

**Thesis**

**True friends care about each other.**

**Points**

# Intro with Anecdote or Personal Experience

**CONNECT THE DOTS!**

**Story (REALLY SHORT!)**

It was Mary's birthday. She made sure all her friends were invited to the party. One friend asked her to stop by after school because the friend had a gift for her. Mary walked the few blocks to her friend's house. The friend burst out the door beaming. She plopped five Hersey's kisses into Mary's hand. The little girl looked down at the kisses. The friend said, "I didn't have any money. This is all I have. I hope you like it." Mary smiled and said, "Thank you! I love chocolate! Want one?" She handed a kiss to the friend as they walked back to the Mary's house for the party.

**Transition**

**Friends may not have much, but they have each other.**

**Thesis**

**True friends care about each other.**

**Points**

Now, what characteristics of a friend show he cares?

# Intro with Anecdote or Personal Experience

**Story (REALLY SHORT!)**

It was Mary's birthday. She made sure all her friends were invited to the party. One friend asked her to stop by after school because the friend had a gift for her. Mary walked the few blocks to her friend's house. The friend burst out the door beaming. She plopped five Hersey's kisses into Mary's hand. The little girl looked down at the kisses. The friend said, "I didn't have any money. This is all I have. I hope you like it." Mary smiled and said, "Thank you! I love chocolate! Want one?" She handed a kiss to the friend as they walked back to the Mary's house for the party.

**Transition**

**Friends may not have much, but they have each other.**

**Thesis**

**True friends care about each other.**

**Points**

**Friends accept each other for who each is.  
Friends are helpful.  
Friends are loyal to each other.**

# Intro with Anecdote or Personal Experience

CONNECT THE DOTS!

**Story (REALLY SHORT!)**

It was Mary's birthday. She made sure all her friends were invited to the party. One friend asked her to stop by after school because the friend had a gift for her. Mary walked the few blocks to her friend's house. The friend burst out the door beaming. She plopped five Hersey's kisses into Mary's hand. The little girl looked down at the kisses. The friend said, "I didn't have any money. This is all I have. I hope you like it." Mary smiled and said, "Thank you! I love chocolate! Want one?" She handed a kiss to the friend as they walked back to the Mary's house for the party.

**Transition**

Friends may not have much, but they have each other.

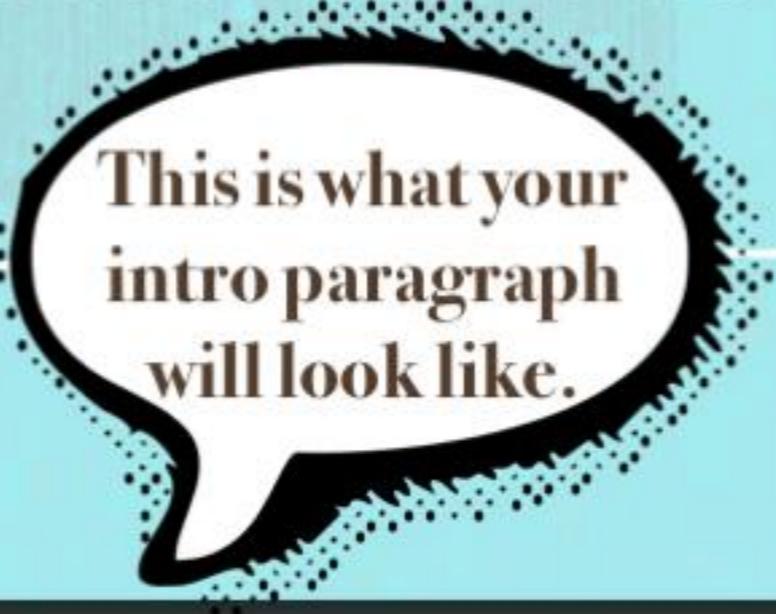
**Thesis**

True friends care about each other.

**Points**

- Friends accept each other for who each is.
- Friends are helpful.
- Friends are loyal to each other.

# Intro with Anecdote or Personal Experience



This is what your  
intro paragraph  
will look like.

It was Mary's birthday. She made sure all her friends were invited to the party. One friend asked her to stop by after school because the friend had a gift for her. Mary walked the few blocks to her friend's house. The friend burst out the door beaming. She plopped five Hersey's kisses into Mary's hand. The little girl looked down at the kisses. The friend said, "I didn't have any money. This is all I have. I hope you like it." Mary smiled and said, "Thank you! I love chocolate! Want one?" She handed a kiss to the friend as they walked back to the Mary's house for the party. **Friends may not have much, but they have each other. True friends care about one another. Friends accept each other for who each is. Friends are helpful. Friends are loyal to each other.**

# Let's Practice!

Write an intro paragraph for ONE of these prompts.

1. The internet is a popular form of communication and learning. Choose one platform on the internet that provides information to users and promotes learning as well. Explain how that platform is beneficial to its users.
2. Choose a book or TV show that is popular today. Explain why the book or TV show is popular.
3. Everyone eventually decides what career to pursue as an adult. Tell what career you'd like to pursue and why you choose it.

# Intro with a Rhetorical Question



**First, what is a rhetorical question?**

**Answer:** a question you don't expect an answer to

**NOTE:** this is **often overused** and is the **least impressive** to a reader.

**Advice:** use caution in choosing this approach.

# Intro with a Rhetorical Question

**Rhetorical Question**

**Transition**

**Thesis**

**Points**

# Intro with a Rhetorical Question

**Rhetorical Question**

**Transition**

**Thesis**

**Points**

**What I  
really want to  
say, need a  
question**

**True friends care about each other.**

# Intro with a Rhetorical Question

**Rhetorical Question**

**What is true friendship?**

**Transition**

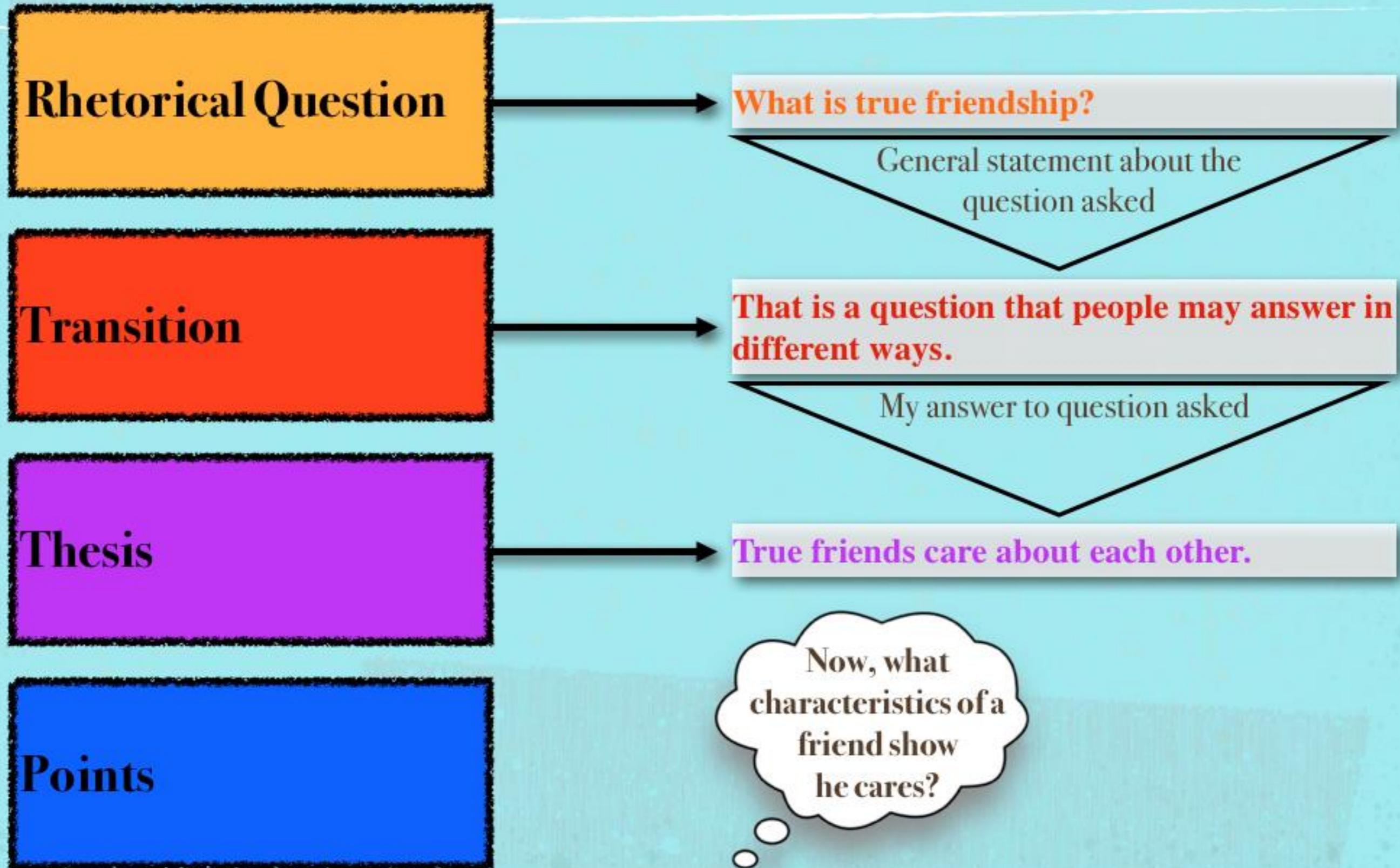
**Got a question,  
now I need to  
connect them**

**Thesis**

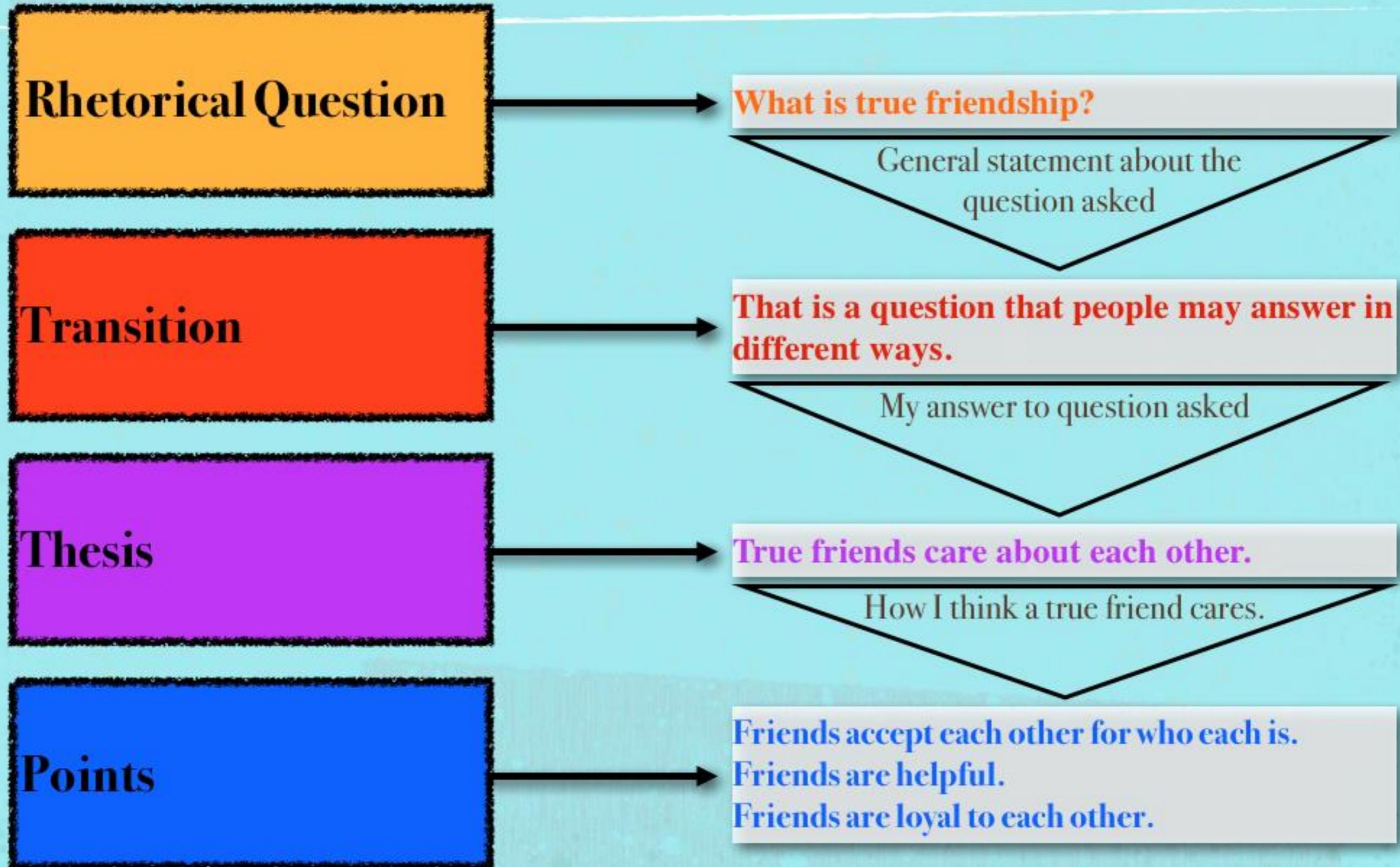
**True friends care about each other.**

**Points**

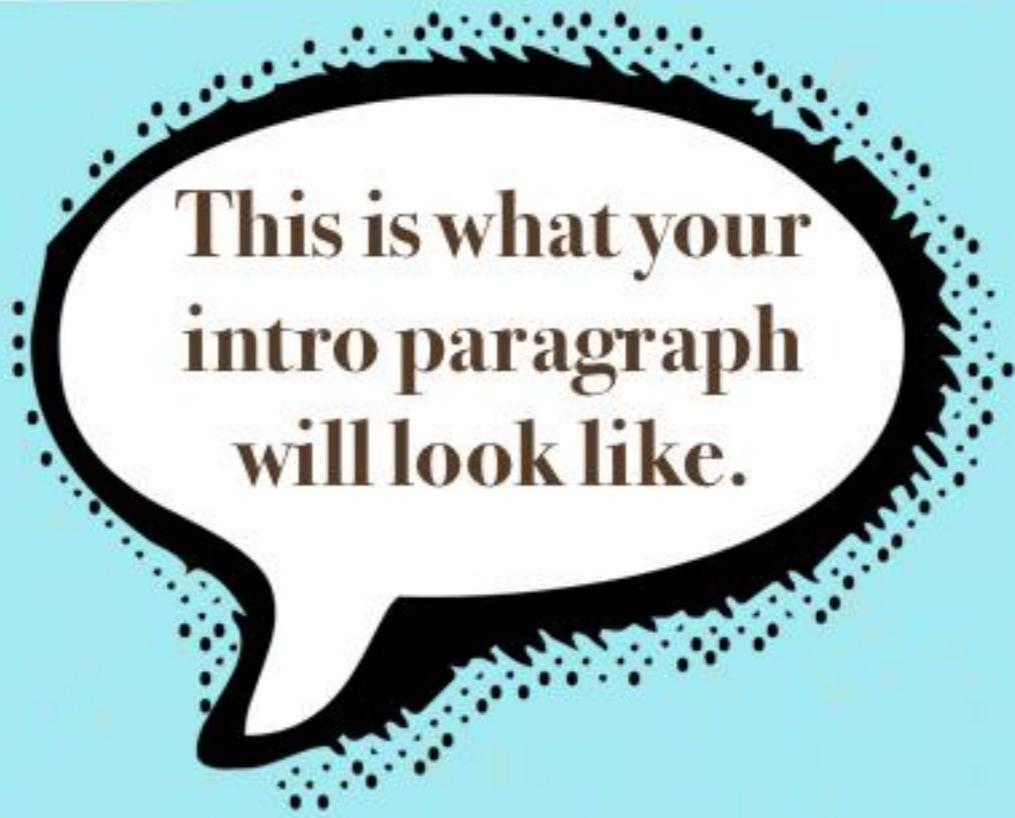
# Intro with a Rhetorical Question



# Intro with a Rhetorical Question



# Intro with Fact or Statistic



**This is what your  
intro paragraph  
will look like.**

**What is true friendship? That is a question that people may answer in different ways. True friends care about one another. Friends accept each other for who each is. Friends are helpful. Friends are loyal to each other.**

# Let's Practice!

Write an intro paragraph for ONE of these prompts.

1. The internet is a popular form of communication and learning. Choose one platform on the internet that provides information to users and promotes learning as well. Explain how that platform is beneficial to its users.
2. Choose a book or TV show that is popular today. Explain why the book or TV show is popular.
3. Everyone eventually decides what career to pursue as an adult. Tell what career you'd like to pursue and why you choose it.

# Intro with Bold Statement



**First, what is a Bold Statement?**

**Answer:** bold statements are catchy, and/or risky remarks that may offend the reader on purpose or may be so profound to make the reader keep reading.

# Intro with a Bold Statement

**Bold Statement**

**Transition**

**Thesis**

**Points**

# Intro with a Bold Statement

**Bold Statement**

**Transition**

**Thesis**

**Points**

What I  
really want to  
say, need a bold  
statement

True friends care about each other.

# Intro with a Bold Statement

**Bold Statement**

**Humans are social animals who can not live without friends.**

**Transition**

Got a bold statement, now I need to connect them

**Thesis**

**True friends care about each other.**

**Points**

# Intro with a Bold Statement

**Bold Statement**

**Humans are social animals who can not live without friends.**

**Transition**

**Friends are essential to overall well-being.  
Humans need to belong and know they are cared about.**

**Thesis**

**True friends care about each other.**

**Points**

# Intro with a Bold Statement

CONNECT THE DOTS!

BOLD IDEA

**Bold Statement**

Humans are social animals who **can not live without friends.**

**Transition**

**Friends are essential to overall well-being. Humans need to belong and know they are cared about.**

**Thesis**

**True friends care about each other.**

**Points**

Now, what characteristics of a friend show he cares?

# Intro with a Bold Statement

**Bold Statement**

**Humans are social animals who can not live without friends.**

**Transition**

**Friends are essential to overall well-being.  
Humans need to belong and know they are cared about.**

**Thesis**

**True friends care about each other.**

**Points**

**Friends accept each other for who each is.  
Friends are helpful.  
Friends are loyal to each other.**

# Intro with a Bold Statement

CONNECT THE DOTS!

BOLD IDEA

**Bold Statement**

Humans are social animals who **can not live without friends.**

**Transition**

**Friends are essential to overall well-being. Humans need to belong and know they are cared about.**

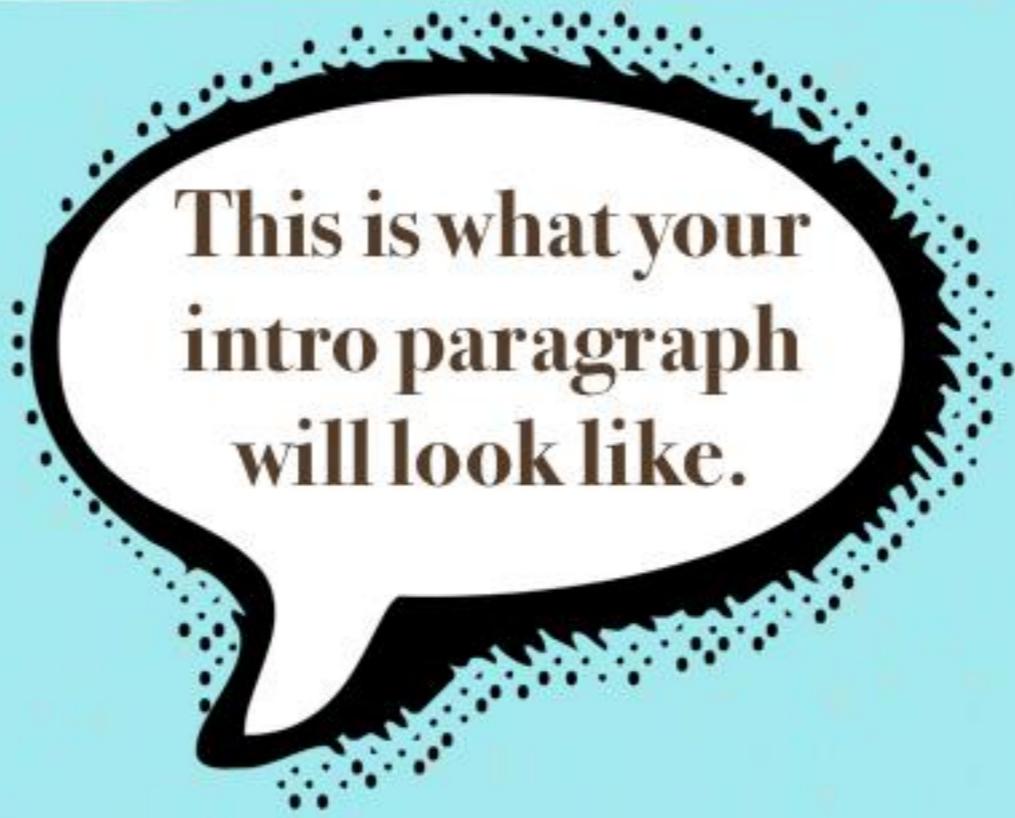
**Thesis**

**True friends care about each other.**

**Points**

- Friends accept each other for who each is.**
- Friends are helpful.**
- Friends are loyal to each other.**

# Intro with Bold Statement



**This is what your  
intro paragraph  
will look like.**

**Humans are social animals who can not live without friends. Friends are essential to overall well-being. Humans need to belong and know they are cared about. True friends care about one another. Friends accept each other for who each is. Friends are helpful. Friends are loyal to each other.**

# Let's Practice!

Write an intro paragraph for ONE of these prompts.

1. The internet is a popular form of communication and learning. Choose one platform on the internet that provides information to users and promotes learning as well. Explain how that platform is beneficial to its users.
2. Choose a book or TV show that is popular today. Explain why the book or TV show is popular.
3. Everyone eventually decides what career to pursue as an adult. Tell what career you'd like to pursue and why you choose it.

# Hooks NOT to Use!

- Quotes- never begin or end an essay with someone else's words!
  - Famous person
  - Google quote
  - Dictionary definition
- “In my essay I’ll...” - don't say what you'll say, **SHOW** what you'll say!



# Let's Review!

Identify the type of intro paragraph:

#1

**What is true friendship? That is a question that people may answer in different ways.** True friends care about one another. Friends accept each other for who each is. Friends are helpful. Friends are loyal to each other.

#2

It was Mary's birthday. She made sure all her friends were invited to the party. One friend asked her to stop by after school because the friend had a gift for her. The little girl walked the few blocks to her friend's house. The friend burst out the door beaming. She plopped five Hersey's kisses into the girl's hand. The little girl looked down at the kisses. The friend said, "I didn't have any money. This is all I have. I hope you like it." The little girl smiled and said, "Thank you! I love chocolate! Want one?" She handed a kiss to the friend as they walked back to the little girl's house for the party. Friends may not have much, but they have each other. True friends care about one another. Friends accept each other for who each is. Friends are helpful. Friends are loyal to each other.

# Let's Review!

Identify the type of intro paragraph:

#3

**“Friends are like stars,” so is said. Just as stars make the night beautiful, friendship makes life beautiful. True friends care about one another. Friends accept each other for who each is. Friends are helpful. Friends are loyal to each other.**

#4

**Humans are social animals who can not live without friends. Friends are essential to overall well-being. Humans need to belong and know they are cared about. True friends care about one another. Friends accept each other for who each is. Friends are helpful. Friends are loyal to each other.**

#5

**A 2004 study published in the American Sociological Review revealed that the average number of trusted friends fell by a third in the past 20 years and the proportion of people with no confidants had doubled. How can one know if a friendship will last? The key is finding a true friend. True friends care about one another. Friends accept each other for who each is. Friends are helpful. Friends are loyal to each other.**

# Now, YOUR essay prompt...

Find the key words and write a thesis statement on a notecard.

**The arts (music, art, drama, dance etc.,) and sports have important effects on people's lives. When begun at a young age, they can be pursued for a long time and can shape future interests, careers, and life styles. One does not have to become a superstar, but the effect can be there and shown in many ways. Choose one of the arts or a sport. Explain how it could shape a person and influence one's life if begun when one is young.**

Choose the type of hook that best fits the thesis.

On a piece of paper...

Write the hook.

Write the transition.

Rewrite the thesis.

Write the 3 points that support the thesis.