

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPHS ARE LIKE

# Free samples



### OBJECTIVE:

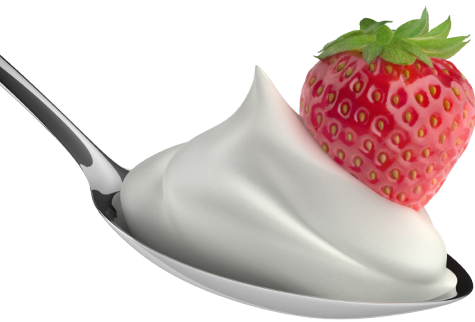
I can write an engaging introductory paragraph that clearly states my claim (thesis) and all other necessary background information.

When a customer can't decide whether or not to buy a food item, the store will sometimes give a free sample to persuade them. Restaurants and business owners know that sometimes you have to hook the buyer with a little taste so that they will crave even more!

Introduction paragraphs are like those free samples: they HOOK the reader and get them ADDICTED for more. It's not just about having a great opening line; you also need to convince the reader to keep going.

A free bite of ice cream is also ACCURATE. It's the same exact ingredients that the full serving has - just a smaller dose of it. This way, the reader gets a tiny preview to make them continue on and "buy" (read) your essay. The thesis statement provided in the intro paragraph will be fully proven later on in the essay, and your goal is to tempt a reader to read on and see how you will pull it off. (More on thesis statements later.)

## CHECK OUT THESE EXAMPLES: HOW DO THEY MAINTAIN YOUR ATTENTION?



### Argumentative Essay: Literary Analysis

The population of China is four times bigger than the population of the United States. Is that a problem? Some say no - the American military alone could withstand any attempt to take over the country. Others say that, even if both countries retain their separate independence, China's size and ongoing growth are serious economic or political problems. If China can prove that communism is a valid form of government, then Socialism could spread as it once did in the 1980s, undermining years of work negotiating democracy and ideals of independence around the world. In this argument, one author, Lois Lowry, is loud and clear in her novel *The Giver*: Communism will never be as utopian as it seems because it sacrifices too much individual freedom.

### Informative Essay

Hearing music is relaxing to many, but playing music has even more physical benefits than simply listening to it. Further, drumming has possibly the most advantages for your health; percussionists, whether professionals or amateurs, experience an increase in endorphins, a decrease in the stress hormone cortisol, a regulation of the heartbeat, as well as physical movement and exercise. All of these physical reactions make drummers happier, calmer, and healthier people, and if done consistently over time, humans can reap the benefits even more. Drumming is widely considered to be a healthy activity due to its impacts on stress, relaxation, and exercise.

*As you annotate these paragraphs, ask yourself:*

- WHERE IS THE THESIS STATEMENT LOCATED?
- WHERE IS THE HOOK? WHICH ONE IS MORE SUCCESSFUL, AND WHY?
- WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE DISCUSSED IN EACH ESSAY? HOW DO YOU KNOW?

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### RECIPE FOR A GOOD INTRODUCTION:

1. The mix-ins (the hook): Seize my taste buds attention with an interesting fact or question.
2. The ice cream (context or reasons): This is the majority of your intro paragraph and what holds it all together. Provide any context I will need to understand what you're writing about and why, AND/OR preview what your main points are going to be.
3. The spoon (thesis statement): Just like a spoon actually delivers the important stuff (the food) to your mouth, a thesis statement carries the main message to the reader.

### Words of Caution:

- **Don't give away too much for free.** Introductions that are TOO long lose our attention, AND they also are probably stating too much info that could be saved for a body paragraph later!
- **Don't hand us the wrong flavor.** If I want chocolate ice cream, don't hand me blueberry! Make sure your intro actually previews what the essay will be about and that they "match"

### Your turn!

Write your paragraph in the space below.

### Checklist:

Does your paragraph...

- Grab my attention with a hook?
- Give me any background information that I need to understand this topic?
- Give me any previews of what you will discuss in your essay?
- Finish with a strong, clear thesis statement to make me keep reading?

### EXIT TICKET:

Summarize what you learned today. What are the MOST important things to remember about introduction paragraphs?