

### Writing Essays: Introductory Paragraph

Level: Middle School

*To write a good introductory paragraph, build a paragraph that will introduce the topic to the reader. Follow this pattern:*

- *Write a thesis statement that tells the topic of the essay.*
- *Write three explanations or examples that develop the thesis.*
- *End with a transition sentence.*

*Example: Athletes work hard to be successful. They develop good habits like getting enough sleep and eating healthful foods. Planning is also important as they attempt to balance work, social, and family responsibilities. Training hard is important, but they must do it without injuring themselves. Below are three athletes who combined good habits, planning, and training to be the best!*

**Below are some introductory paragraphs for essays. Identify if each part is the thesis statement, an explanation/example sentence, or a transition sentence.**

1. **a. Thesis**  
**b. Explanation/example sentence**  
**c. Transition sentence**

\_\_\_\_\_ Disappointment can lead to something good.

\_\_\_\_\_ Abraham Lincoln experienced initial failure in war, failure in politics, and even failure in love.

\_\_\_\_\_ Clearly, failure can bring about some surprising results in the end, so below are three success stories that sprang from failure.

\_\_\_\_\_ A teacher of Albert Einstein once said he was "mentally slow, unsociable, and adrift forever in foolish dreams."

\_\_\_\_\_ Thomas Edison said this about his failed light bulb experiments: "Why, man, I have gotten lots of results! I know several thousand things that won't work!"

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2. a. Thesis  
b. Explanation/example sentence  
c. Transition sentence

\_\_\_\_\_ First, police officers defend the weak and helpless and keep criminals off the streets.

\_\_\_\_\_ People who spend their lives protecting others deserve respect.

\_\_\_\_\_ Finally, firefighters work hard to control fires to protect people's homes and businesses.

\_\_\_\_\_ Also, the military protects the country so the people can enjoy freedom.

\_\_\_\_\_ All three of these groups are worthy of honor and respect.

3. a. Thesis  
b. Explanation/example sentence  
c. Transition sentence

\_\_\_\_\_ Although they may be young, kids can still make a difference in the world in these ways.

\_\_\_\_\_ For example, they could help their neighbors with whatever they need.

\_\_\_\_\_ Next, they could submit a letter to the editor to suggest a way to improve the neighborhood.

\_\_\_\_\_ Even young people can improve the world around them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Finally, they could help their teachers after school.

## Writing Essays: Introductory Paragraph Answer Sheet

1. a  
b  
c  
b  
b

2. b  
a  
b  
b  
c

3. c  
b  
b  
a  
b