

Name _____

Argumentative Lesson 4: Structuring a Solid Introduction

Structuring a Solid Introduction

DEFINITION ALERT:

Hook: usually the first sentence(s) of an introduction; attempts to gain the reader's attention with a variety of techniques: dialogue, imagery, figurative language, direct characterization, etc.

Bridge: the connecting sentence between the Hook and the Thesis; narrows the topic closer to the thesis statement

Thesis: the main, controlling statement of the essay; tells the reader the topic of the essay; contains the claim

Example #1: Although the district administration may believe this is a legitimate policy for maintaining the safety of all personnel, the removal of student-chosen school attire will make no difference in campus security. The district, in the name of providing a safe educational environment, is limiting the self-expression of students, knowing full well that clothing has nothing to do with security. During a recent school board meeting, a presentation lauded numerous cases across the United States in which the use of school uniforms, along with other measures, improved security; however, dress code alone is not the answer. It is simply not the purpose of a public school district to choose the daily attire of its students.

1. What did the writer do in the Hook to get the reader's attention? _____

2. How does the Bridge connect the Hook to the Thesis? _____

3. What is the topic of the essay according to the Thesis? _____

4. How could you improve this introduction? _____

5. What type of claim is being used? _____

Using the same topic as the one provided in Example #1, compose an introduction for the opposing position.

Example #2: Technology is a part of daily life—unless the user is a K-12 student in the hundreds of thousands of public schools across America. Even though numerous vocations and universities require students to use a variety of technological applications and devices, K-12 public schools have determined that the use of personal technological devices during the school day is completely prohibited, punishable by confiscation and fines. How is this preposterous policy in reasonable alignment with the goals and objectives of the current career- and college-readiness mindset for United States students? It is, quite simply, not. A policy prohibiting the use of personal technological devices is retarding K-12 students' preparation for higher education and the global work force.

1. What did the writer do in the Hook to get the reader's attention? _____

2. How does the bridge connect the Hook to the Thesis? _____

3. What is the topic of the essay, according to the Thesis? _____

4. How could you improve this introduction? _____
