

How to Write an Essay Part 1 – Introduction Paragraph

Video Notes

Part A. What is an Essay? Write the answer to each question.

1. What is an essay?
2. How many paragraphs are in an essay?
3. What is a prompt?
4. Give an example of a prompt.
5. Tell two ways to show clearly where a paragraph begins.
6. Complete the table. Note: These three terms are reviewed in different parts of the video.

Introduction Paragraph Part	Function
1. Hook	
2. Background Sentences	
3. Thesis Statement	

Part B. The Hook. Write five types of essay hooks, and give an example of each.

Type of Hook	Example
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Part C. Background Information. Complete the table. Write the types of hooks in an introduction paragraph and give an example of each.

Background Information	Example
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

Part D. Thesis Statement Write the answer to each question.

Parts of a Thesis Statement	
Thesis Statement = _____	+ _____
main idea = _____	_____ _____ _____ _____

Part E. Thesis Statement Examples. Complete the table. Write the example prompts and thesis statements that answer each prompt. Circle the main idea, and underline each reason.

Prompt	Thesis Statement
The prompt _____ a question.	The thesis statement _____ the question.
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

Part F. Example Introduction Paragraph. In this introduction paragraph, label the hook, background sentences, and thesis statement. Circle the main idea of the thesis statement, and underline the three reasons.

People need exercise to stay healthy. Adults should exercise 20 minutes daily, but most people do not. Activities like swimming, lifting weights, and playing sports are often inconvenient or too expensive. The best type of exercise is walking because it is easy, convenient, and usually done outside.