

Introductions

The introduction should include three things:

Hook – a statement that gains your reader's interest

Background Information – information that gives your reader a general idea of your topic

Thesis Statement – your one sentence statement of the purpose of your essay, which lets the reader know what you will prove

Ways to Start

Inverted Pyramid (Background)

Hockey is Canada's national pastime and passion. It is an amazing sport played by tens of thousands of citizens. In rinks everywhere children aspire to play in the National Hockey League and earn the love of millions of fans. Arenas across the country host games of dizzying speed where great skills are demonstrated in battles of strength and grit. But, Canada's national passion also has a dark side – a blood lust – that mocks the country's laws and cheers violent on-ice behaviors. The fact is, a hockey player can assault another person on the ice with virtually no repercussions. However, the same altercation on the street would lead to criminal charges, court dates, and jail. Hockey fans need to be reminded that hockey is a team game – not a gladiator sport. Fighting in minor hockey is embarrassing and should be banned because it can cause serious injury and death, it contradicts the standards of other team sports, and it disrespects the rule of law.

An Interesting Fact

Penguins exclude others that appear different. When a rare albino penguin appears, other penguins will not interact with it. Similarly, humans tend to exclude others who are physically, culturally and socially dissimilar. Although the idea of familiarizing oneself with someone unknown can be frightening, it is essential for people to welcome those who are different from them in order for humanity to develop.

An Anecdote

As the teenage girl moves towards the glowing computer screen she feels the thrill of anticipation. "What photos will be up tonight?" she wonders. "Whose life is currently falling apart?" At the click of the mouse, however, she feels an overwhelming sense of disappointment. Facebook is down. For a Facebook addict, this news can be devastating. The average teenager spends eight hours a week on Facebook. Based on this statistic, many teenagers could be considered addicted to the social networking site. Yet most are not aware of the multiple negative effects Facebook has on young people today.

Quote

“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.” Traveling is enjoyable and exciting, but more importantly it teaches people about themselves and the world around them. In order to one day achieve a global community, and to become accustomed to the lives, culture and beliefs of others, it is crucial that teenagers travel to gain ‘real world’ experience rather than simply learning about the world through television or the internet.

Conclusions

The conclusion should:

- tie together the important points in the essay and leave the reader with a clear understanding of your argument.
- impress the reader in the last sentence with the final conclusion you draw

Ways to End

Summarize the Main Points

Through travel, adolescents gain an understanding that both similarities and differences make people of all cultures stronger. This knowledge will inspire them, as adults, to create a global where humanity can live in harmony. Television and the internet allow people to watch the world, but travel shapes them into better human beings.

Call for Action

If students do not change the way they act, there will be more cases of school shootings or teen suicide in the future. However, if teenagers choose to act now, they can not only save lives, but also create a safer learning environment. Everyone seeks acceptance, and no one should feel the pain of rejection. Schoolmates have an obligation to treat each other with respect and be part of the solution to bullying, not part of the problem.