**TDA Essays: Steps to Success**

**Step 5: Write Your Introduction**

* 2-3 sentences
* Begins with a **lead**: 1-2 sentences
* Ends with a **thesis**: 1 sentence

Example of an Introduction:

The articles “The Eagles are Back!” by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, “Bald Eagles Make a Comeback in Chicago” by Brian Williams and Kevin Tibbles, and “Bald Eagle Deaths Raising Concerns” by Matthew Tresaugue all discuss the decreasing population of the bald eagle. People are helping the bald eagle increase in numbers by banning the use of a pesticide called DDT, raising eagle chicks to be set free in the wild, and through the use of raptor guards.

**How do I write a LEAD?**

1. Summarize what you read.
2. Must include the title(s) and author(s).

**Example of a LEAD:**

The articles “The Eagles are Back!” by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, “Bald Eagles Make a Comeback in Chicago” by Brian Williams and Kevin Tibbles, and “Bald Eagle Deaths Raising Concerns” by Matthew Tresaugue all discuss the decreasing population of the bald eagle.

**Practice:**

1. Write a lead for the story Yertle the Turtle.

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1. Write a lead for the short story “The School Play”.

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**What is a THESIS?**

-It tells the reader the main idea of your essay.

**How do I write a THESIS?**

1. Restate the prompt.
2. With 3 gist (general) responses.

**Example of a THESIS**:

TDA Prompt: The passages discuss the impact that people have had on the bald eagle. Write an essay analyzing how people are helping the bald eagle increase in numbers. Use the information from all three passages to support your response.

People are helping the bald eagle increase in numbers by banning the use of a pesticide called DDT, raising eagle chicks to be set free in the wild, an d through the use of raptor guards.

**Practice**:

1. Analyze if Belinda from the “School Play” would make a good friend. Use details from the story persuade the reader.

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1. Analyze the character traits that make Billy Colman a successful hunter. Use evidence from the novel to support your response.

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1. Write a persuasive essay explaining why homework should not be given in school. Use evidence from the article to support your response.

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**Writing Thesis Statements**

Directions: Read the following prompts. Then write a thesis statement for each prompt. Remember a thesis statement restates the prompt with 3 gist responses.

1. Should cell phones be banned in schools? Use evidence from the articles to support your response.

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1. Through the years new inventions have changed the way we live. Think about one invention that has had an impact on the way you live. Write an essay explaining how this invention changed your life.

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1. Write an essay explaining why someone you care about is important to you.

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1. Would you rather be an only child or have many brothers and sisters? Why?

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1. Think about a teacher that impacted your life. Write an essay that explains the impact this teacher had on your life.

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