

Step 5: Write Introduction Paragraph

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

Prompt:

Authors use various techniques when developing and explaining the motivations of characters. Write an essay analyzing how the author of "The Raft" reveals Dewey's character and his motivations throughout the passage. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

Introduction Paragraph:

In "The Raft" by Betsy Byars, the author uses many techniques to develop and explain the motivations of characters. Dewey's character and motivation is revealed through flashback, dialogue, and his actions.

How do I write a LEAD?

1. Summarize the first sentence of the prompt.
2. Include the title(s) and author(s).
3. 1 sentence

Example of a LEAD:

In "The Raft" by Betsy Byars, the author uses many techniques to develop and explain the motivations of characters.

Practice:

1. **Prompt:** In the passage "Two Amazing Tales of Memory," the concept of memory is discussed. Write an essay analyzing the effect that Mr. S's memory had on his life. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

2. **Prompt:** The author Ernest Thayer of "Casey at the Bat" uses humor to describe Casey's experience. Write an essay analyzing whether the author's techniques are successful or not. Be sure to include textual evidence to support your analysis.

What is a THESIS?

- It tells the reader the main idea of your essay.
- Tells the reader what you had to do.

How do I write a THESIS?

1. Restate the 2nd sentence in the prompt.
2. With 3 gist (general) responses.
3. 1 sentence ONLY

Example of a THESIS:

Prompt: Authors use various techniques when developing and explaining the motivations of characters. Write an essay analyzing how the author of "The Raft" reveals Dewey's character and his motivations throughout the passage. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

Thesis: Dewey's character and motivation is revealed through flashback, dialogue, and his actions.

Practice:

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

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

3. Should homework be given in school? Write a persuasive essay explaining your reasons.

Introduction Paragraph Practice

Directions: Read the following prompts, and write an introduction paragraph.

1. Our minds can make fears worse than they are. Write an essay analyzing how the events in the passage prove this statement true. Use evidence from the passage to support your response. (Text: "The School Play" by Gary Soto)

2. In Where the Red Fern Grows, Billy Coleman finds a red fern growing over the grave of his dogs. Write an essay analyzing how this section is important to the plot of the entire story. Be sure to include textual evidence to support your analysis. (Text: Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls)

3. Theme is a message the author tries to teach the reader. Write an essay analyzing how the setting of Hatchet relates to the theme of the story. Be sure to include textual evidence to support your analysis. (Text: Hatchet by Gary Paulsen)
