

The Introductory Paragraph Worksheet

1. Write a hook that is several sentences long. It must be related to the thesis and fully developed. Choose 1 of the following options. Do not use more than 1 or you risk an underdeveloped or jumpy introductory paragraph. Cite any outside information you borrow.



Choices:

- a. Vivid description
- b. Background story
- c. Personal anecdote
- d. Examples
- e. Surprising fact or statistic, with explanation
- f. Definition, with explanation
- g. Historical comparison
- h. Vivid quote, with explanation

2. Write a phrase or sentence that connects (or transitions between) the hook and the thesis.

3. Give a **thesis** (1-2 sentences) with a limited topic, argument, and explanation or evidence.

- a. Limited topic: limits the subject described in the essay prompt.
- b. Argument: Tells what side you are on or what claim you are making. Often this is the answer to a question in the essay prompt.
- c. Explanation or evidence: Tells why your argument is correct.



The Body Paragraph Worksheet

The point or argument I am making in this paragraph is: _____

(This worksheet creates 1, 11-sentence body paragraph for a research essay. Use as many copies as you have body paragraphs)

1. Topic sentence (summarizes the paragraph):

2. Define any terms in topic sentence that are unclear (introduce any quote you use and cite your source if you use one). Skip this if unnecessary.

3. Give a quote that proves your evidence is real (introduce and cite your source). Each sentence that contains information must have its own parenthetical. Examples:

- According to evidence, "quoting helps your argument" (Smith 45).
- No author? Use the title. Example: According to evidence, "quoting helps your argument" ("On Quoting" 45).
- No page number? Skip the page number. Example: According to evidence, "quoting helps your argument" (Smith).

4. Describe this evidence. Restate the quote in your own words.

5. Explain how this evidence proves your thesis. What kind of evidence is it? What does it show?

- [Finish this statement: This evidence proves my argument is correct because it shows that...]



6. Further explain how this evidence proves your thesis. What kind of evidence is it? What does it show?

- [Finish this statement: This evidence proves my argument is correct because it ALSO shows that...]

7. Give a quote that proves your evidence is real (introduce and cite your source). Each sentence that contains information must have its own parenthetical.

8. Describe this second piece of evidence. Restate the quote in your own words.

9. Explain how this evidence proves your thesis. What kind of evidence is it? What does it show?

- [Finish this statement: This evidence proves my argument is correct because it shows that...]

10. Further explain how this evidence proves your thesis. What kind of evidence is it? What does it show?

- [Finish this statement: This evidence proves my argument is correct because it ALSO shows that...]

11. Concluding sentence (restate the topic sentence in different words).

The Concluding Paragraph Worksheet

1. Write a concluding hook several sentences long. It must be related to the thesis and fully developed.

Choose 1 of the following options. Do not use more than 1 or you risk an underdeveloped or jumpy concluding paragraph.

Choices:

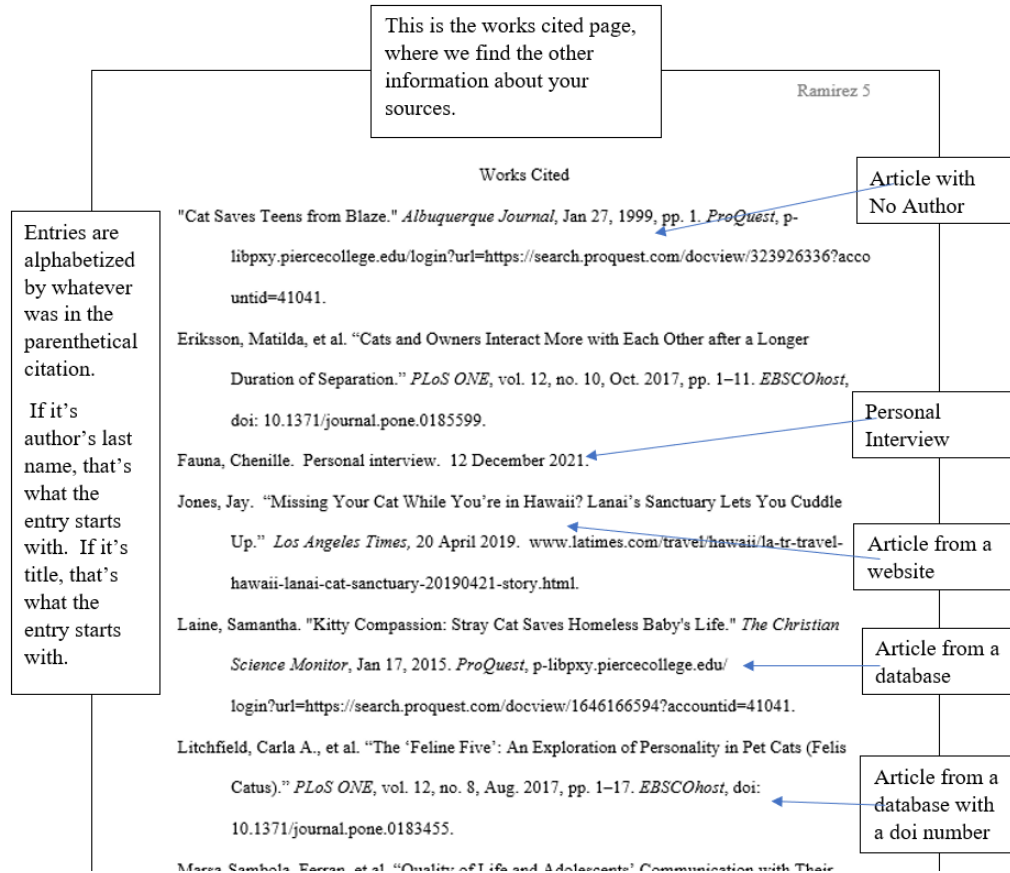
- a. Summary of main points
- b. Give a recommendation
- c. Vivid quote, with explanation
- d. Future scenario
- e. Question to the reader, with answer
- f. Personal evaluation



2. Restate the thesis (1-2 sentences) with a limited topic, argument, and explanation or evidence. Use a thesaurus to find different words than the thesis used.

- a. Limited topic: limits the subject described in the essay prompt.
- b. Argument: Tells what side you are on or what claim you are making. Often this is the answer to a question in the essay prompt.
- c. Explanation or evidence: Tells why your argument is correct.

The List of Works Cited



About MLA Format

On the first page of your essay:

- There is a header with your last name and page number in the upper-right hand corner of the page (right corner, 1/2" from top).
- There is a heading with your name, instructor's name, class, and date
- Give a title after the heading, centered in title case. Do not underline, bold, italicize, or put quotes around your title. Keep the title in 12 point font, Times New Roman.
- Use Times New Roman 12 point font
- Double space the entire essay
- Use 1" margins (1" on the top, bottom, left, and right)
- Indent each paragraph 5 spaces (even the first)
- The essay should be single-sided.