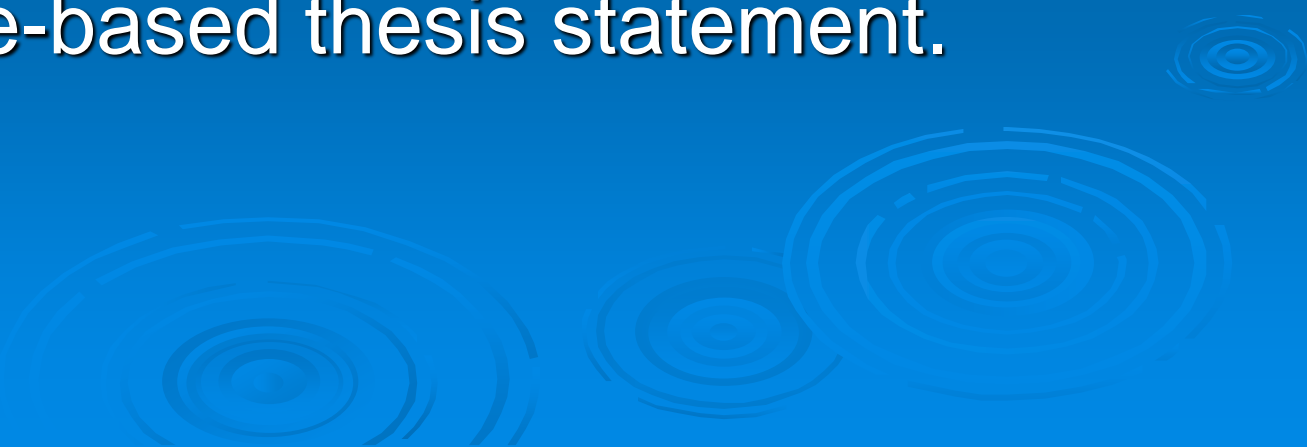


An effective introduction

All you need is a beginning statement that launches the topic, a few elaborative statements to amplify the topic, and a powerful, theme-based thesis statement.



An effective introduction

Starting the introduction can be accomplished a number of ways:

a general statement, a quote, a statistic (rare in literary analysis), an observation. Then there should be a few sentences that build off the general idea (thematic topic) asserted in the first sentence. These sentences elaborate on the topic, and foreshadow some of what will be specifically discussed in the rest of the paper, to help the reader's brain forecast the paper's content for better clarity.

Example:

John Donne once wrote that “No man is an island, Entire of itself.”

An effective introduction

John Donne once wrote that “No man is an island, Entire of itself.” Moments of solitude can be edifying, but when prolonged, isolation is often more damaging than restorative. Where some people choose to isolate themselves, others may experience isolation through rejection or other external causes. In either case, the longer an individual stays on his own, the more problems arise.

An effective introduction

John Donne once wrote that “No man is an island, Entire of itself.” Moments of solitude can be edifying, but when prolonged, isolation is often more damaging than restorative. Where some people choose to isolate themselves, others may experience isolation through rejection or other external causes. In either case, the longer an individual stays on his own, the more problems arise. Clearly, the emotional connection derived from interactions with others is essential for maintaining an individual’s physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

About those Body Paragraphs

➤ Major Works: 3 paragraphs

- No mini-introductions, just a sentence of transition—Example₁: “Few literary works emphasize the influence of family greater than the Classical tragedy of *Oedipus Rex*.” Example₂: “Oedipus’ stubborn search for truth forced him to face the horrifying truth of his identity; equally discomfoting for Hamlet, the truths of his family induced many questions—regarding life, death, and the meaning of his existence.”

Major Work Body Paragraphs

- Your paper must include a well-developed introduction that ends with a thematic thesis statement, as well as a solid concluding paragraph. Between those two paragraphs, you must discuss 5 works that compose the paper's BODY—for major works, write 3 paragraphs, and for minor works, write 2 paragraphs;
 - Body paragraphs should deal with various aspects of the book's content. You may choose from the following considerations: character (including character relationships), setting, point of view, conflict, contrast, symbol, diction, use of detail, imagery, language, and syntax;

More on the Major Work Body Paragraphs

- For each body paragraph, use the “PEAL” method of providing evidence and **commentary—TWO rounds of PEAL per body paragraph, or enough content in ONE PEAL to constitute ample discussion/analysis**. Use this formula to guarantee that you are truly discussing analytically (not re-telling the story!):
- **Make a statement asserting a key POINT (topic sentence);**
 - **Provide EXAMPLES illustrating the textual connection to the point made (statements of fact, examples, details, quotes);**
 - **Then write ANALYSIS (commentary) that explains the significance of your examples as they relate to or support your theme;**
 - **Write a LINKING statement that offers a final opinion about how this element/device reveals the truth of the issue, or links this paragraph’s discussion to the next paragraph/work.**

Example!

Victor shares the power and influence of family from the start of his life: “No creature could have more tender parents than mine” (19). Victor describes his childhood as idyllic, boasting “No youth could have passed more happily than mine,” as his parents were “indulgent” and his friends “amiable” (20). This emphasis on love and support from friends and family echoes the need all people have for a nurturing environment during formative stages of development. By his account, young Victor wanted for absolutely nothing emotionally, mentally, or physically. The mention of friends in addition to family further illustrates the benefit of socialization of children, first with family, and later with playmates. Victor’s acknowledgement of his family’s importance further underscores his egregious neglect of the creature, his “child,” when he needed a parent most.