

Name\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_\_

## **GUIDE TO WRITING AN INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH**

Your introductory paragraph does NOT need to be longer than four or five sentences.  
There are 4 parts to an INTRODUCTION:

1) **Hook sentence(s)/Attention-Getter:** You want to capture your reader's attention with something interesting

What can you do to grab someone's attention?

1. Story
2. Quotation
3. Simile
4. Sensory Descriptions
5. VERY INTERESTING question
6. Fact or Statistic

2) **Explain the hook:** tell me why the hook is important to your topic

3) **Transition Sentence:** tell me how your hook and your thesis statement will be connected

4) **Thesis Statement:** ONE sentence that has your opinion, the prompt, and 3 points of discussion. NEVER EVER EVER say "MY ESSAY IS GOING TO BE ABOUT" or "I WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT," just tell me.

**Example:**

"A dog is man's best friend." That common saying may contain some truth, but dogs are not the only animal friend whose companionship people enjoy. For many people, a cat is their best friend. **Despite what dog lovers may believe, cats make excellent house pets as they are good companions, they are civilized members of the household, and they are easy to care for.**