



The introductory paragraph is the first-paragraph in the persuasive essay.

Your introductory paragraph should have three parts:

1. **An attention-catcher**
2. **A thesis**
3. **A preview.**

The introductory paragraph is perhaps the most important paragraph in the essay because it is the first and possibly last chance to make an impact on the reader.

It should clearly express the subject of the essay as well as the writer's position. Every introductory paragraph should begin with an attention catcher.

Attention Catchers

The attention catcher or lead should be the first sentence in the persuasive essay. It is the writer's first chance to make an impression on the reader, so it should not be spent thoughtlessly.

Try these:

- **Asking a Question**
- **Quotation**
- **Anecdote**
- **Imaginative Scenario**

Thesis

A thesis is a clearly worded statement telling readers exactly what the writer intends to do in the essay.

Good persuasive writing does not make the reader guess as to what your intentions are. It should be very clear.

Preview the Main points

The preview briefly states the main points that will be argued in the essay. The preview is not where the arguments are developed. The preview merely summarizes each point in as few words as possible.

Activity: Read the essays below and then answer the questions that follow.

Lockers for Everyone

What would you think if you had to put your personal belongings in a crate, and every time you turn around something of yours were stolen? **That is why I think students should have lockers.** To protect their things, keep their things somewhere clean, and so they won't have to complain about carrying everything at once.

Students should have lockers because it will stop people from stealing their stuff.

For example, the children won't have to worry about their books, homework assignments, and personal belongings being stolen. The reason for this is that the children will have their own lockers plus their own locks, which only they have the combination to. This will reduce cases where things are being stolen.

Students also should have lockers so they will have a clean place to put their books. What I mean by this is that many desks are rusty and have gum stuck under them. Also, if you put your stuff into a crate then it is easily collecting dust. This connects to my argument because their stuff will be kept very clean in a neat environment if students are given lockers to use.

My final reason why I think students should have lockers is so students won't complain about carrying everything at once. The things that they may be caring everyday are very heavy. This is important because students may suffer health problems from having to carry all their stuff everywhere. Why carry books everyday why you can eliminate the pain by having a locker to store the things you don't need? Also, they're always whining about having to carry all their books. If we had lockers everyone would be happier.

In conclusion I think students should have lockers. **If we have lockers stealing in school would go down, it would create a safe and clean place for students to put their things, and students would complain less and be healthier.** If we had lockers, the school would be a happier place for everyone. If you don't want your things stolen, contact your principal and demand lockers for your school.

1. **Circle the attention catcher.**
2. **Underline the position statement (thesis).**
3. **Highlight** each main point as it appears in the essay.
4. **Circle what you think is the clinching statement.**

Introductory Paragraph Review

Directions: Read the introductory paragraphs. Based on the preview of main points, determine what the next paragraphs will be about.

The other day when I was walking to school, I saw a street cleaner sit in the truck while his partner did all of the work. Both of those people were getting paid. People need to take street cleaning more seriously. Street cleaning is important because it decreases the pollution, it gives our city a better look, and it increases employment.

What will the first body paragraph be about? **Decrease in pollution**

What will the second body paragraph be about? **City will look better**

What will the third body paragraph be about? **Street cleaning increases employment**

Have you ever really needed to go somewhere and did not have transportation? People under the age of 14 should be able to drive. They should be able to drive because they might have woken up late and no one is home. Another reason is that on winter days it might be so cold that people could get bad frost bites. And also, they would be able to help with errands and picking up brothers and sisters.

What will the first body paragraph be about? **If they wake up late, they can drive themselves to where They need to go.**

What will the second body paragraph be about? **In Winter, if they walk, they can get frost bite.**

What will the third body paragraph be about? **They can help with errands.**

