**Introductions & Conclusions Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Traditionally, an introduction prepares your readers for what they’re about to read: You focus on a specific research question and propose a thesis that answers that question, and then you defend it in the rest of your research paper.

But, just as in a good novel, your first words also serve to capture your readers’ atten­tion and “sell” the rest of your writing (enough that they’ll keep reading it!).

To set your research paper apart, pull your readers in, and make a great first impression, you should begin with a “**hook**” (that’s a music industry term for an intro that’s original, impressive, and memorable). **Bridge** the hook to your introduction by including background information or other relevant details to link it to your **thesis statement,** the assertion you will address and prove in your paper.

When crafting the “hook” of your introduction, consider these options:

• Find a short quotation that succinctly encapsulates your thesis.

• Retell an interesting anecdote/story of a person who personally dealt with or

experienced your topic.

• Identify any shocking statements, common misconceptions, little-known facts, or

surprising paradoxes that relate to your thesis.

• Think of a situation or someone in current events that relates to your thesis. Consider

creating an analogy in your introduction.

• Directly ask your research question. Then discuss the background information and

answer the question with your thesis.

Hook

Bridge

Thesis Statement

**Conclusions**

Whereas an introduction focuses the general down to the specific, the conclusion extends the specific up to the general.

A well-written conclusion takes your thesis, which you’ve made a good case for in the rest of your research paper, and explores its broader implications and/or reflects on its larger significance.

It leaves that all-im­portant final impression on your readers and should give your paper a sense of thoroughness and authori­tativeness.

Assuming that you have effectively proven your thesis within the rest of your paper, consider the following as a framework for your conclusion:

* Restate your thesis statement.
* Summarize (briefly) the main points of your paper.
* Include a call to action to persuade others to adopt your viewpoint if possible. This means you provide some ways for your problem to be solved. Or, you describe the alternative (not agreeing with you) as undesirable or dangerous.
* End with a powerful or thought-provoking idea. For example, you could
  + - * ask a personal/moral/ethical question about your topic,
      * have an insightful final thought about your topic, or
      * add a relevant quotation.