Mini Research Assignment Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Celebrity Fall from Grace Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_\_

**Introductions**

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

surprising paradoxes that relate to your thesis.

* Think of a situation or someone else 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.

**Thesis Statements**

After reading and researching, decide which side you are on. Ask yourself these questions:

* What is/was the celebrity guilty of? Was it a moral or legal “crime”?
* Did the celebrity deserve the fall from grace or not?
* What happened to the celebrity after the “scandal”?
* What is the current public opinion of the celebrity?
* What should happen (or should have happened) to the celebrity as a result of his/her fall from grace?

**Your ultimate goal is convince the audience to believe as you do!**

**BASIC Examples of Thesis Statements**

The public was justified in shaming (not supporting or boycotting) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The public was wrong to shame \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and should support this person again.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was treated unfairly by the media and his/her supposed fans.

**BETTER Examples of Thesis Statements**

Despite all the evidence that confirmed his innocence, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was found guilty

in the minds of his once-loyal fanbase.

No matter how many crimes she has committed or moral boundaries she has crossed,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has a loyal following who will continue to support her artistic talent.

Over time, the court of public opinion has unfortunately/unfortunately forgotten

everything about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s past transgressions.

What is a **Counterclaim**?C:\Users\aburgwin\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\S575AMI6\MC900434395[1].wmf

When you are in an argument, you have a strong opinion that is contrary to someone else. Often, neither side budges. Isn’t the point of an argument to convince the other side they are wrong (and you are right)? If you address the opposite side and point out WHY that view is wrong (or faulty/illogical in some way), you stand a better chance of convincing your audience to side with you. *This type of persuasion is a called counterclaim.*

**Claim-** Although they are traditionally seen as a distraction, students should be able to bring cell phones to school because digital literacy can be used for educational purposes.

**Counterclaim-** Some argue that students should not be able to bring cell phones to school because they could use them to communicate during a test.

**Evidence against counterclaim-** Although there are risks associated with allowing students to have cell phones in schools, with proper regulations like collecting them on test days, the benefits outweigh the risks.

**Provide evidence:** According to the article, “Using Mobile Phones to Improve Educational Outcomes: An Analysis of Evidence from Asia” by John-Harmen Valk, “Social interaction is central to effective learning, as indicated by theories of new learning. Mobile phones should also impact educational outcomes by facilitating communication” (*Time* 78).

**Claim:**  Despite his admission of guilt and his heartfelt apology to the cycling world, Lance Armstrong will never be able to compete again nor will he escape the label of being a blood doper.

**Counterclaim:**