

Introduction Paragraph - Get your reader's attention and state your paper's thesis.

Attention Grabber—

IT IS long enough to create a sense of curiosity about your topic. It will cause your reader to begin thinking in the direction of your topic.

IT IS NOT information that will later be found in the body, nor is it so short that your reader misses the topic and fails to gain interest.

Possible Techniques—based on a topic of high school students demonstrating a lack of responsibility

1. State a startling, troubling, or otherwise interesting fact or idea
 - a. *Out of 1222 current 9th grade students at Union, 232 have been sent to the office on 512 referrals (Little).*
 - b. *92% of thirty-two students questioned agree students fall short of the basic expectations a student should reach any given day.*
 - c. *Take a minute to ponder and remember the last irresponsible act as a high school student.*
2. Ask a question – It may not be answered with “yes” or “no”. – Do not include any 2nd person reference: you, your, yourself, yours, etc.
 - a. *How many students will agree they have shown poor judgment in the last week?*
 - b. *If asking a friend, what would he or she say is the last irresponsible action witnessed directly.*
 - c. *Of the approximately thirty students sitting nearby in class, how many would you say likely lacked responsibility in the last forty-eight hours?*
3. Begin with a short anecdote (a quick story – must be very short) (cannot be directly related to the topic).
 - a. *Earlier this week during an off-campus lunch excursion, Johnny opted to ignore the restriction on his driver's license and chose to drive several friends to Zaxby's; unfortunately, the extra passengers likely led to the distraction that caused him to fail to see the oncoming car that slammed into his passenger side. In addition, he then fled the scene, and hoping to avoid the inevitable, he then skipped school.*
4. Use a quote from someone who is recognizable or famous.

Irresponsible vs stupid – A fine line exists between the two. Robert Downey, Jr. was quoted in Brainy Quotes as saying, “I was kind of like chasing my tail and trying to do the right thing, and was a little bit stupid. Or irresponsible, which is the same thing I guess.”
5. Give a definition
 - a. *According to Dictionary.com, “Irresponsible” is defined as: an inability to be answerable or accountable, as for something within one's power, control, or management, due to age, circumstances, or mental ability.*
6. Use an analogy
 - a. *A student finding opportunity for irresponsible behavior is easier than hitting paint on a wall with a firehose.*
 - b. *“Taking responsibility is like proofing what you write. When you make a typo, you don't blame anyone for it. You don't blame yourself. You take a pencil and erase the error and replace it with the correct spelling. An error was made and corrected. There is no guilt trip. There is nothing to feel guilty about. An error was made, and an error was corrected” (Heaven).*

Thesis Statement—

It is one sentence to state the main idea of your paper (very general) and your opinion about that topic. Three main ideas will support the thesis and become each body paragraph's topic sentence. This is why we keep the thesis general.

Thesis Statement - A thesis introduces the main idea of the essay and expresses the author's opinion.

Basic examples with an action verb and without:

Getting braces was one of the best things that could have happened to me.

Getting braces improved my life tremendously.

Bicycling on Tulsa roads can be a frightening experience.

Bicycling on Tulsa roads frightens most riders.

Union 9th Grade Center is a wonderful place to go to school.

Union 9th Grade Center provides wonderful opportunities.

Conclusion Paragraph

New information is ALL commentary—

It does not include concrete details and does not repeat key words from the paper (especially not from the thesis or introductory paragraph). It may mention main ideas again to reinforce.

It does give a finished feeling to the entire essay. Use one or a combination of the styles below. **ALL NEW INFO IS COMMENTARY!**

- sum up the writer's ideas
- reflect on what is said in the paper
- give a personal statement about the paper
- summarize, review, or restate the thesis in different words
- make an appeal for action

It should not be any longer than the introduction, but it should indicate a sense of conclusion to the reader. If the conclusion ended at the bottom of the page, would the reader turn the paper over after reading the conclusion? If so, the conclusion does not effectively end the essay.

Writing an Attention Grabber

For one of the topics selected from the “Thesis Development Guide Sheet”, write a sample(s) for four of the six techniques.

State a startling, troubling, or otherwise interesting fact or diea. (2 total samples)

a. _____

b. _____

Ask a question – not one which can be answered with a “yes” or “no” (2)

a. _____

b. _____

Give a definition

a. _____

Select one of the remaining three: either a quote from someone recognizable or famous, an anecdote, or an analogy.

a. _____
