

Tiers 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5: Pre-Writing Worksheet 3  
Introduction and Conclusion Paragraphs

Step One: Write your thesis, which will be a sort of topic sentence for the entire essay. This means that your topic sentences from all of your body paragraphs need to be fully covered by your thesis. Look at your various topic sentences that you've written, and take the most essential ideas from each and include them, whether specifically or generically, into your thesis.

Thesis:

Step Two: Write your introduction paragraph. Take your thesis from above and rewrite it in the correct place (#4) in your intro. Then write a grabber/hook next to #1. Then write two sentences that help to transition from your grabber to your thesis smoothly.

Introduction Paragraph

1: (Grabber/Hook)

2: (Transition 1)

3: (Transition 2)

4: (Thesis)

Step Three: Write your conclusion paragraph. Take your thesis from above and rewrite it in the correct place (#1) in your conclusion. Then write a closer/clinchier next to #4. Then write two sentences that help to transition from your thesis to your closer/clinchier smoothly.

Conclusion Paragraph

1: (Thesis)

2: (Transition 1)

3: (Transition 2)

4: (Closer/Clincher)

#### Tips for Grabbers/Hooks:

- They should be interesting to engage the reader
- They should be something that can apply to all readers pretty generally; therefore, the grabber/hook should not be very similar to your thesis at all.
- Avoid boring and/or easy to answer questions for grabbers/hooks.
- They should not really mention the author(s) or the title(s) that you are writing about.

#### Tips for Closers/Clinchers:

- They are the final thing/idea that you leave your reader with. Like the grabber/hook, it should be engaging.
- They should be something that can apply to all readers pretty generally; therefore, the closer/clincher should not be very similar to your thesis at all.
- They should not really mention the author(s) or the title(s) that you are writing about.
- Ideally, it's a really neat effect to link closers/clinchers back to your grabber/hook in some way.

#### Transitions:

- Transitions are really just there to get you from one point to another very smoothly/without seeming too choppy.
- Transitions can be a word, a phrase, or an entire sentence. In the case of your intro and conclusion paragraphs, you'll use entire sentences that are really only there to transition smoothly between your thesis and the grabber/hook (intro) or the closer/clincher (conclusion).
- For this exercise, Transition 1 will always have more in common with the sentence in front of it. Transition 2 will always have more in common with the sentence after it. Ideally, write transition 1 as a way to answer a "so what" type of question about the sentence before it. Then write Transition 2 to be a "bridge" between Transition 1 and the final sentence of your paragraph (either the thesis or your closer/clincher, depending on which paragraph. If you can then read all four sentences in order and it feels smooth, then you have transitioned well. If it feels choppy, then you might need to fix one of the transitions or add a third transition sentence somewhere.