

# Introduction

The first paragraph of an essay is called the **introduction**. It begins with an attention-grabbing statement (a “hook”), and then provides background information about the topic. Finally, it ends with a clearly defined thesis statement (your claim).

## Major parts of the introduction:

1. Hook (1-2 sentences).
2. Background information about the topic (2-3 sentences).
3. Thesis statement (1 sentence)/

### HOOK STYLES FOR YOUR ARGUMENT ESSAY ON THE OUTSIDERS

- **A meaningful statement** about violence or self-defence  
*Example: Sometimes people must make impossible choices to protect themselves or someone they care about.*
- **A big idea** about justice or right vs. wrong  
*Example: Deciding what is truly fair is not always as simple as it seems.*
- **A general observation** about the world of *The Outsiders*  
*Example: In a world where Greasers and Socs are constantly fighting, danger is always close by.*

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION - WHAT DOES YOUR READER NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND YOUR ARGUMENT?

- ☞ **Introduce the novel.** Include the title, author, and a brief statement about the case.  
*Example: In the novel The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, a major turning point occurs when Johnny Cade kills Bob Sheldon during a violent fight.*
- ☞ **Give brief background information.** Explain only the essential details leading up to the killing.  
*Example: Before the stabbing happens, Johnny and Ponyboy are attacked by Bob and a group of Socs. Terrified, Johnny pulls out his switchblade, and the fight that ensues results Bob's death. The scene raises the question of whether Johnny's actions are justified or a criminal act.*

### THESIS STATEMENT - THIS SENTENCE SHOWS YOUR POSITION ON THE TOPIC (GUILTY/ INNOCENT).

# Introduction

Put it all together!

**Hook:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Background Information:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thesis/Claim:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 **COMBINE THE SENTENCE ABOVE TO WRITE YOUR INTRODUCTION.**