# Functional English SS150 2+1

COURSE IN CHARGE:

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## **WEEK #8**

# Writing the Introduction Paragraph

## Paragraph

- a collection of sentences, dealing with a single topic/ idea
- three types of paragraphs
- 1. The introduction paragraph
- 2. The body paragraph
- 3. The conclusion paragraph
- An introduction paragraph grabs the readers' interest and presents the topic of the essay.

## Parts of Intro P.

- ► MOTIVATOR: techniques used to generate interest and hook the reader.
- ▶ THESIS STATEMENT: it introduces the essay topic & defines the writer's standpoint & goal in an explicit & clear way.
- ▶ OVERVIEW OF MAIN BODY POINTS: the writer gives hints, or informs the reader about the main ideas of the body paragraphs. (Sometimes a part of thesis)
- ► CONCLUSION: End on an encouraging note. Sometimes this sentence may not be needed.

## Example (Effects of Gaming on Children)

Over the years in national history, since the phenomenal uprising of billionaire Bill Gates and his introduction of Microsoft, America and many countries alike have taken many advances in the breaches of technology. Many countries have developed a major dependency on computer systems in everyday life. However, in a way, computers have not only become an aide to the human race but also a destructive force in the development of the world's children. Over the years, computer games have become the latest craze among children and teenagers. It would not be wrong to say that computer games cast a negative influence on children in various ways. Computer games cause time wastage, develop unruly realism, and teach children barbaric techniques of behavior. Hence, gaming is indeed serving as a strong force causing damage to the future of the country, that is, "the children".

#### MOTIVATORS/ATTENTION GETTERS/HOOKS:

#### Personal Example:

It provides strong, dramatic incidents to use. Honesty in expressing thoughts and feelings will ring true with the reader. Be careful that it sounds credible.

Personal observation - different from a personal example, an observation is something you saw happening.

#### Example:

On Friday, February 19, 2011, life changed for an eighteen-year-old young man. He became very ill from a bacterial infection. His body could not fight the infection. Why? After a week of tests and examinations by several specialists, the diagnosis was made. He had leukemia, a cancer of the bone marrow. I am that young man. When a person finds out that he has cancer, just as I did, his whole world changes. A cancer patient is affected physically, psychologically, and socially by the impact of cancer.

Using Quotations: Content of quote should be:

Dramatic Emotionally appealing Surprising Humorous Quote must be from a famous person. Must be relevant to thesis statement.

Example:

"The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven" (255). This thought by John Milton was recorded over four hundred years ago, but it is still timely for us today. He seems to be saying that we are the ones to control our lives. We can be miserable when things are going well, just as we can be happy when things are going wrong. With this thought in mind, we can control the way we face life through our attitude, our determination, and our ability.

#### Using Fact/Statistics

Must be startling or unusual

Must be from a credible source

Use journal as a place to record both quotes and facts or statistics that might work for an introduction

#### Example:

According to an article in Family Safety & First Aid, published by Berkley Books, "... every 45 seconds a fire breaks out in an American home – 700,000 residences aflame each year. And 16 times a day somebody dies in one of these burning homes" (45). These statistics are frightening and should not be taken lightly. The best way to deal with the possibility of loss from fire is to plan ahead before it happens. Otherwise, it is too late. In order not to become one of these statistics, Americans need to equip their homes with safety devices, set and adhere to safety rules, and practice a family escape plan in order to protect their families.

#### **▶** Using Current Events:

Must be recent Must be important Should be made public by newspapers, television, or radio

#### Example:

This morning's news reported that a young girl, age 5, was abducted from her classroom. As a frantic search ensued, people across the Philadelphia area were shocked to find that the kidnapper walked right into the child's classroom and demanded that the young kindergartner leave with the woman. The child managed to escape and was found, but she had been attacked by her captors. Obviously, safety procedures broke down and this poor child paid the price. In order to assure the safety of all children, schools across the country must review safety procedures, tighten safety protocols where necessary, and assure all staff members are properly trained.

### **Thesis Statement**

- ▶ It should launch the essay topic in a decisive and firm manner.
- ▶ It contains the controlling idea(s) which give direction to the essay, and help in forming topic sentences.
- It is usually written at the end of the paragraph, or after the motivator.
- ▶ It gives the reader enough information to predict the main ideas of the body paragraphs.
- ▶ It is focused, detailed, and specific.
- ▶ It may change according to the type of the essay.

## EXERCISE: (P. 87)

Identify the controlling ideas of the essays. Also, predict the kind of discussion you will find in the main body.

- 1. Children enjoy professional wrestling for many reasons.
- 2. Shopping malls are more than just places where you can buy things.
- 3. Most students prefer the bright colors and good organization of the Skippy websites to the Jif websites.
- 4. The Head & Shoulders website proved superior to the Herbal Essences website.

Write  $\underline{A}$  if it is an announcement. Write  $\underline{OK}$  if it is a clear, limited point that could be developed in an essay.

- 1. This essay will discuss the people you meet in exercise class.
- 2. The kids of workout clothes worn in my aerobic class identify "jocks", "strugglers", and "princesses".
- 3. I made several mistakes in the process of trying to win the respect and affection of my teenage stepson.
- 4. My thesis in this paper is relationships between stepparents and stepchildren.
- 5. Loneliness is the subject of this paper.
- 6. My concern here is to discuss near-death experiences reported by some patients.

Write TN that is too narrow to be developed in an essay. Write OK that is a clear, limited point.

1summer.	a. I had squash, tomatoes, and corn in my garden last
	b. Vegetable gardening can be a frustrating hobby.
2	a. The main road into our town is lined with billboards.
	b. For several reasons, billboards should be abolished.
3 habits.	a. My first job taught me that I had several bad work
pay and we	b. Because I was late for work yesterday, I lost an hour as called in to see the boss.

	hat is too broad to be developed in an essay. Write <mark>OK</mark> clear, limited point.
1 America	a. In many ways, sports are an important part of n life.
football f	b. Widespread gambling has changed professional for the worse.
	<ul> <li>a. Modern life makes people suspicious and unfriendly</li> <li>b. A frightening experience in my neighborhood has</li> <li>ne to be a much more cautious person in several ways</li> </ul>
	a. Toys ads on television teach children to be greedy, tive, and snobbish.
	b. Advertising has bad effects on all of society.

## Write 2 if it contains more than one idea. Write OK if it is a clear, limited point.

<ol> <li>a. Working with old people changed my stereotypical ideas about the elderly.</li> </ol>
b. My life had moved in a new direction since the rewarding job I had working with older people last summer.
2a. The new architecture on this campus is very unpleasant, although the expansion was desperately needed.
b. Our new college library building is ugly, intimidating, and inefficient.
3a. Among the most entertaining ads on TV today are those for mail-order products.
b. Although Ads on TV for mail-order products are often misleading, they can still be very entertaining.

Home Assignment
Ex T6
Page no. 88
(Submit it in the hard copy)

## Practice: (Pair Work)

Generate ideas, make an outline, and write an introduction paragraph for the given topics:

- Importance of sleep for a healthy life
- ▶ Peer Pressure, and its influence on teenagers'



Thank you ©