

# Writing a Three Paragraph Essay

# How is a three paragraph essay organized?

## Introduction

## Body Paragraph

## Conclusion

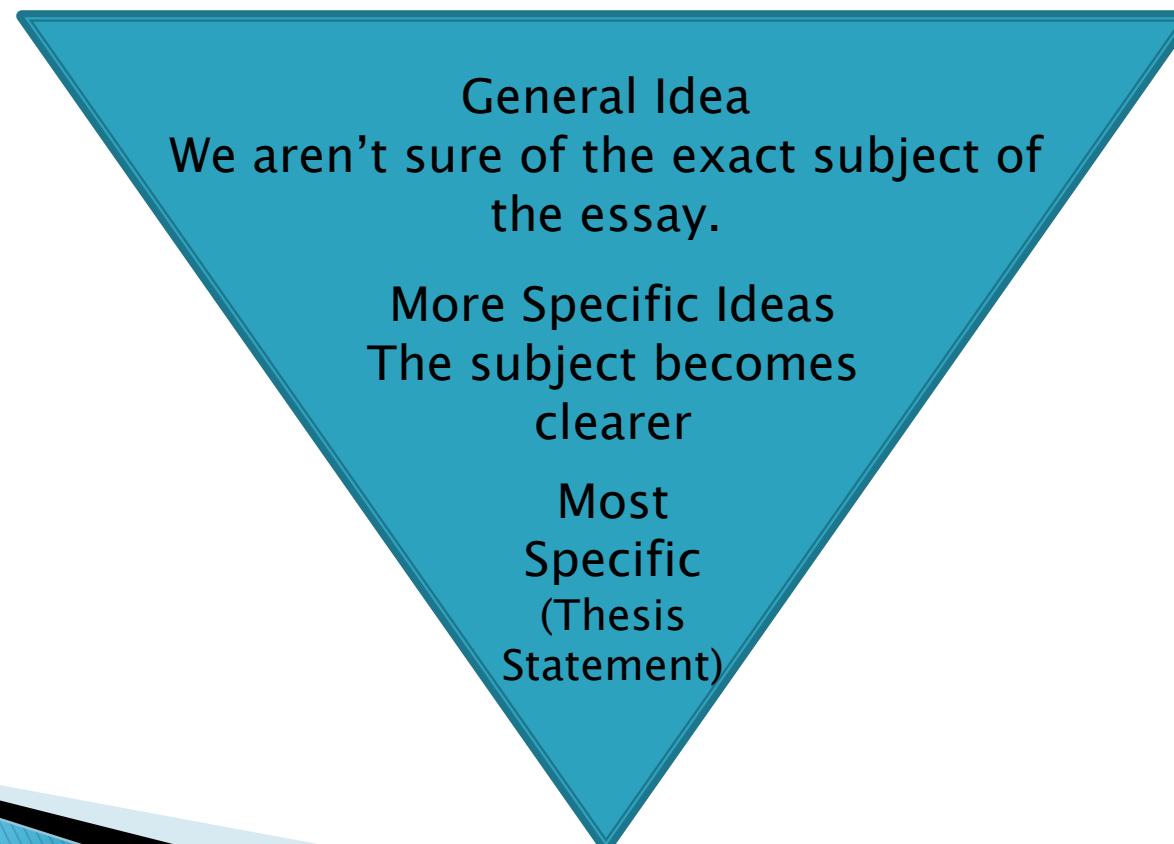
# Introductions

What does an introduction do?

- ▶ Gives some general background information about the topic
- ▶ Tells the main point of the essay (Thesis Statement)
- ▶ Proceeds from general ideas to one specific idea

# Introductions

## An upside down pyramid



# Sample Introduction #1

Read the following introduction and identify (1) The **general ideas** (2) the **more specific ideas**, and (3) the **thesis statement**.

“No man is an island,” wrote the English poet John Donne. We are not alone in this world, and what we do has an effect on others. In fact, what we do for prisoners will affect our lives as well as theirs. If we want criminals to become useful members of society when they get out of jail, we must educate them while they are still in prison.

Reason to Write p. 30

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# Sample Introduction #2

Read the following introduction and identify (1) The **general ideas** (2) the **more specific ideas**, and (3) the **thesis statement**.

I have been interested in history ever since I was in junior high school. Sometimes I have daydreamed about the past and the life I could have had. I still love to read about ancient civilizations, like ancient Egypt, but if I had to choose when I would like to live, I would never choose the past. The present is the best time for me as a woman because living in a world at peace, being able to develop my mind and talents, and enjoying the love of my family and friends are the most important things in my life.

Reason to Write p. 67

# Sample Introduction #2

Read the following introduction and identify (1) The general ideas (2) the more specific ideas, and (3) the thesis statement.

I have been interested in history ever since I was in junior high school. Sometimes I have daydreamed about the past and the life I could have had. I still love to read about ancient civilizations, like ancient Egypt, but if I had to choose when I would like to live, I would never choose the past. The present is the best time for me as a woman because living in a world at peace, being able to develop my mind and talents, and enjoying the love of my family and friends are the most important things in my life.

Reason to Write p. 67

# Conclusions

What does a conclusion do?

- ▶ It brings the essay to a close
- ▶ Restates the ideas from the body paragraph
- ▶ It does not introduce new ideas

# Sample Conclusion #1

Read the following conclusion. How does this conclusion connect to the introduction?

Prisoners can become future citizens, but we must educate them while they are still in prison to make their reform a success. By instructing and encouraging those prisoners who are nonviolent or who wish to change, we will not only improve their lives, we will ensure the safety of our society.

Reason to Write p. 30

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Reason to Write p. 30

# Sample Conclusion #2

Read the following conclusion. How does this conclusion connect to the introduction?

I hope that I can use these years of peace, this chance to develop independently as a woman, and the support of the people I love to create a happy and productive future. Studying history reminds us that many people in the past tried to make the world a better place. I hope to do the same and to live my life to the fullest today and tomorrow.

Reason to Write p. 68

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Reason to Write p. 68