# PLANNING PAGE: Introduction Paragraph

1. HOOK (lead): Needs to be strong, interesting and clearly *expand* your argument (thesis).

Every author has their own style and themes that they focus on in their books. For John Steinbeck, one of those themes is Underdogs.

1. BACKGROUND ON AUTHOR: Include information about the author including any relevant information that supports your thesis. You WILL NEED TO TAG and CITE this information (use your Author Bio sheet).

\* John Steinbeck was born on February 27th, 1902 in Salinas, California. (A)

\* He grew up in Salinas, California, which is actually the setting of his book *Of mice and men.* (A)  
\* He eventually went to Stanford University for six years on and off and ended up dropping out without his degree.

\* He began writing when he was 14 years old. (A)

\* Eventually, he published his first book, *Cup of Gold* (B)  
\* Some of his other famous works are *the Grapes of wrath, East of Eden,* and *The Pearl.* (A)  
\* He died December 20th, 1968 (A)

1. LEAD INTO THESIS: One or two sentences are needed to direct the reader into your thesis:

John grew up in the early 1900s and peaked in the 1930s. As he watched the 1930s take place with all its struggles, he was able to accurately represent these struggles.

1. THESIS STATEMENT: This basic formula is required, but please spruce it up!! (Make sure the order of your HOWs increase in strength – last HOW is the big PUNCH!) **AUTHOR + VERB + YOUR CLAIM (argument) + HOW (modified to one HOW here!)**

**John Steinbeck demonstrates the theme of underdogs in the 1930s by using his Characters.**