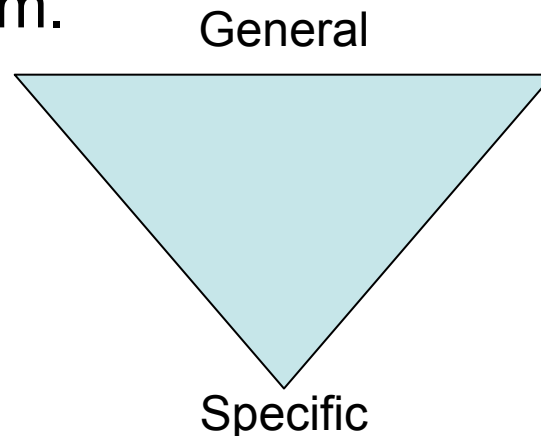


Structure of an Essay:



Introduction – Think of an introduction as an upside down triangle.

1. Opens with a GENERAL statement that introduces the topic (known as the Lead/Hook).
2. Followed by some brief and relevant plot summary/details that give the context for the thesis statement and connect the lead/hook to the thesis/claim. Sometimes, this part provides relevant background information. **It Must introduce the *Title* AND the author of the work of literature.**
3. Ends with a clear and precise SPECIFIC thesis statement/claim.



Lead/Hook can be in a form of

1. An intriguing example
2. A provocative quotation (with a lead-in)
3. **A general statement or universal observation.**
4. Other strategies include: vivid and concise anecdotes, a thought-provoking question, or a surprising fact/statistic.

Examples of leads/hooks

- Stephen King, creator of such stories as *Carrie* and *Pet Sematary*, stated that the Edgar Allan Poe stories he read as a child gave him the inspiration and instruction he needed to become the writer that he is.
- Elbert Hubbard once said , "Truth is stronger than fiction."
- The young man with the hammer hoisted himself onto the top of the wall. All around him on the wall and on the ground, people chanted and cheered. The young man knelt down, with his hammer, and began to chip at the cold, gray concrete. Little by little, the wall began to crumble.

Examples of leads/hooks

- What do smoke signals, wax tablets, and the telegraph all have in common? They were all tools used for communication. Some of these tools were more sophisticated than others, but all of them served the same purpose. They allowed people to communicate with each other.
- Its left ear is partially detached. One of its black plastic eyes is gone. Parts of its fur is worn and matted from being hugged and tugged around the house. Food and juice stains dapple his tan coat in places.

Example of an Introduction:

- **[Lead/Hook]:** Humanity's greatest achievements have brought progress, but too often this "progress" has resulted in despair, and such progress is captured in *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erick Remarque.
- **[Relevant Background Information/Transitional statement(s)]:** In the novel Remarque describes gratuitous acts of violence brought upon the soldiers by the latest technological advancements. The inventions of chemical/gas agents and war machines, like tanks and air-fighters, have aided warfare but have reduced many people to bloodbaths. **[Relevant plot observation]**
- **[Thesis]:** Remarque uses the imagery from nature associated with destruction to demonstrate how the destructive "weight" or force of technology brings down the soldiers' morale and hopes. **[Argument +Scope]**