Introduction Paragraphs

WHAT DO I NEED?

☐ **Hook:** A 1-2 sentence hook that introduces the topic of your paper, but not the work of literature (see below).

☐ **Connection to Novel:** Use a transition to draw a connection between the hook and the work of literature; state the title, author, and genre right away.
- title = *Pride and Prejudice, Harry Potter, The Hunger Games*
- author = Jane Austen, J.K. Rowling, Suzanne Collins
- genre = novel, play, poem, short story

☐ **Summary:** Briefly summarize your topic and work of literature; possibly introduce your body paragraph points.

☐ **Thesis:** The final sentence of the introduction.

HOW DO I WRITE A HOOK?

A hook is the very first sentence of your essay; it should capture your reader's attention. Let's be honest: most people may not find works of literature like *Pride and Prejudice, Wuthering Heights,* or *Macbeth* that interesting. So, DON'T talk about your author or your novel/play/poem in your hook. Instead, talk about your **general topic** in a manner that is both interesting and somehow related to your thesis.

The sample paragraph below doesn't mention Chaucer and *The Canterbury Tales* until the third sentence. Instead, the paragraph begins with a hook about the corruption and "seedy underbelly" of the church. *THAT* is pretty interesting (and even a bit scandalous!), so people are hopefully more likely to read my essay.

SAMPLE INTRODUCATION PARAGRAPH

Directions: Choose four colors to highlight the following components of the sample introduction paragraph below: hook, connection to novel, summary, and thesis.

Corruption and deceit have existed in the church for thousands of years; however, the general public rarely catches a glimpse at the seedy underbelly of religious life. Yet Geoffrey Chaucer—an English poet—was bold enough to expose the greediness and corruption of the church in his world-renowned poem, *The Canterbury Tales.* The Canterbury Tales tells the story of a group of pilgrims going on a journey to worship at Canterbury; one of these pilgrims is the Pardoner, a man who works for the church. Chaucer portrays the Pardoner as a hypocritical and greedy individual, ultimately suggesting the Medieval English church is broken and corrupt.

Introduction Paragraph Organizer

Hook: Introduce the topic in an interesting way. Don't introduce the work of literature yet. *1-2 sentences*	
Introduce Novel: Use transition to connect the hook to the work of literature. State title, author, genre. *1-2 sentences*	
Briefly Explain Character, Novel, Topic: Possibly state 3 body points; give brief summary of work/topic. *1-2 sentences*	
Thesis: What you are attempting to argue in your paper. *1 sentence*	