

*Goals of an introductory paragraph*

- To catch the reader's interest.
- To establish your credibility as a witness; to give reasons why your opinion on human nature is worth listening to.
  - Should be a summary of your life, qualifications, and accomplishments.
- To state the thesis statement you will be arguing in your paper.

*Common problems with your introductory paragraphs*

- Credibility as a witness not established – you don't say enough about what you did in your life and why we should listen to you.
- Lacks a thesis statement.
- Too much detail – don't include all facts, just the things that establish your credibility as a witness.

**Intro Paragraph #1:** I am John Ronald Reuel Tolkien. I was born in Bloemfontein South Africa, in 1892. I wrote the influential fantasy series The Lord of the Rings, as well as the Silmarillion, and the Book of Lost Tales (Doughan). I was professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford University. My father died when I was an infant, and Father Morgan, a close friend of my family, helped us through difficult financial times. Then mother died when I was twelve years old, and Father Morgan became my guardian. I fought in the First World War, and suffered from Trench Fever. I lost almost all of my close friends in the trenches. I witnessed humanity at its lowest and most violent point, and have written books with strong themes about the nature of good and evil ("Tolkien- A Biography"). I believe that humans are created good, and with free will. They either become evil by choice, or by corruption from society and temptation. Therefore Golding should be found guilty of libel for the beliefs he expresses in Lord of the Flies.

**Intro Paragraph #2:** I am Desmond Mpilo Tutu and I was born in 1931 in Klerksdorp, Transvaal, an area in northern South Africa. In my lifetime I have been the voice of the voiceless in South Africa during the times of apartheid, and I have also been the bishop of the Anglican Church of South Africa, and the Archbishop of South Africa. I qualify to be in this trial because in my life I was the chairperson, appointed by Nelson Mandela, for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa granting amnesty to white South Africans for killing black South Africans if they met the required criteria for being forgiven ("Desmond Tutu"). I have also won eight different peace awards for what I did repairing South Africa's metaphorical wounds of apartheid. These include the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, the Albert Schweitzer for Humanitarianism in 1986, the Pacem in Terris Award, the Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award in 1992, the Sydney Peace Prize in 1999, the Gandhi Peace Award in 2005, the Lincoln Leadership Prize in 2008, and finally, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009. Aside from these awards, I was the first black South African to lead the Anglican Church of South Africa, which I gave up to focus on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) ("Forging Equality in South Africa"). Through all these events, I believe that humans are not innately evil, and that people are nurtured to their goodness, or badness because given all the things I've been through, I think that people want to do good, and sometimes they don't know better than to be violent because that is what they have been shown and taught their whole life. Therefore, Golding should be found guilty for libel.

**Intro Paragraph #3:** I am Saddam Hussein. I was born on April 28, 1937, on the outskirts of Tikrit in northern Iraq (Steffoff 20). I grew up to become the president of Iraq, and lead the country from 1979 to 2003. I was an influential dictator of my time in the politically turmoil region of the Middle East. I lead Iraq during the Iraq-Iran war, the invasion of Kuwait, and during the U.S. invasion of Iraq. All my life I have grown up with political instability, and climbed through the ranks to become leader of Iraq. I have been accused of wiping out towns and using weapons against the Kurds of northern Iraq. I have been considered one of the most evil dictators and cruelest leader of my time period. Many people don't know what kind of person I was, or where I came from, and believe the actions I have taken are for no reason. The reasons

are strictly because I am considered one of the most corrupt leaders in the world. I support the nurture, or the plaintiff side of the argument, because I was raised into a corrupt world of take action or suffer consequences. A lot of the actions I have taken are because of the situations I am placed in. The politics I believe in took a large toll on the actions I have made, and also how I was raised through my lifetime. Considering the context of country, my people, and the need for the prosperity of Iraq have forced the actions I have taken, and none are based on evil itself. Therefore, Golding should be found guilty.

**Intro Paragraph #4:** I am William Golding. I was born in Newquay, Cornwall, UK on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1911. I died of heart failure on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1993. My occupation is an English Novelist (Faber). I'm being tried for libel views I expressed on human nature in my novel *Lord of the Flies*. I am a writer and a teacher. I wrote *Lord of the Flies*, and published it in 1954. I was knighted in 1988. I also received the Nobel Prize for Literature. My book, *Lord of the Flies*, is one the most influential books of all time. My views are what I strongly believe. Humans are born evil, and aggressive. We have no control over what is part of us. We as humans are evil. For this reason, I should be found innocent.

**Intro Paragraph #5:** My name is Elie Wiesel. I was born September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1928 in Sighet, Transylvania. Some things that are important about me are that I survived the holocaust, and the concentration camps of Auschwitz, Buna, Buchenwald and Gleiwitz. I am a professor of humanities at the Boston University, and I have written over forty books. My most famous book is Night for this book describes my experiences in the concentration camps. I received a noble peace prize in 1986 for writing Night because I was speaking out against violence and oppression. ("Elie Wiesel") I believe I qualify for this trial because my experiences during World War II and my fight for survival in the concentration camps can help the jury decide that William Golding was perfectly correct for saying that humans are naturally born with the evil inside of themselves. I believe that humans are naturally born evil and aggressive because when someone is at the last point of survival they will do anything to save themselves. For this reason, William Golding should be found innocent for the charge that he is facing today.

**Intro Paragraph #6:** I was given the name White Ape, though I was born on the third of April 1934 with the name Jane Goodall in London, England. When I was much younger, at the age of 23, I was given the opportunity to go to Kenya with a friend and her family. A guest at a dinner party informed me of Louis Leakey, a famous anthropologist, whom I would eventually work for as a secretary. This kicked off my career for the next few years. I assisted Leakey with his research on multiple animals and the chimpanzees later became the focal point of my career. The reason for this was because one day, Leakey shared his thoughts of the habits of great apes and chimps. Through nearly three decades, I made many fascinating discoveries while I was there. Not only had these discoveries become important to me, but to science, proving and disproving theories that many scientists questioned about these creatures and even people. My life experiences may not be bad, but from watching animals that are the closest relatives to humans, I believe that humans are in fact, innately violent creatures. For this reason, Golding should be found innocent.

**Intro Paragraph #6:** I'm Simon, a quiet 10-year-old boy. I experience life on the island and I support the nature side of this trial. I strongly believe that there is a little evil in all of us humans, no matter how well we mask it. In a once-in-a-lifetime experience, I met the Lord of the Flies, the Devil, who finally convinces me my theory is correct but discourages me as to telling the others about it. The littleuns kept calling it a 'beast' or a 'beastie' and without realizing it, personifying what they saw in their nightmares as the 'beast'. This put my mind to work and I found that the 'beast' was really inside us the whole time. What we feared most was inside us. My life experiences qualify me to be in this trial because I experienced this harsh island life first hand and saw how humans can go from being partially civilized back to their nature of unnecessary violence. This is why Golding should be found innocent.

**Intro Paragraph #7:** My name is Eleanor Roosevelt. I was born New York City, on the southeastern side at the mouth of the Hudson River on October 11, 1884 (Caroli). I am a philanthropist, author, world diplomat, and resolute champion of liberal causes. I always fought

for equality of others who didn't have equal rights. I gave a voice to those who didn't have one. The things that are important about me are that I am a woman who did many things in order to become one of the most powerful and effective advocates for social justice. I was dedicated to the elimination of child labor, the establishment of minimum wage, I helped to protect workers, and fought to end discrimination. My life experiences qualify me to be in the trial because I took part in many political issues. I was a part of the Women's Trade Union League, New York State Democratic Party, Member of Legislative Affair Committee of League of Women Voters, and I was the First Lady. I believe that humans are taught to be evil and aggressive; therefore I support the nurture side. Humans are by nature good or in some case nothing and violence occurs because of the influences on a person's life. For this reason, Golding should be found guilty of libel.