

Ms. Allen's Guide to Writing an Introduction

1. Introduce MAJOR facts about the text--type of text (poem, novel, essay, etc.), the author's name, and the title of the text (longer titles--novels, epic poems, plays--italicize, shorter titles--songs, poems, essays, short stories--use quotations).
2. Give BRIEF summary of the novel--generic for context, and introduce major character you'll be focusing on in your essay
3. Give context that directly answers the prompt (sample prompt: How does the author's change in point of view affect the purpose of the novel?)
4. Create a thesis statement that provides the specific claims, methods, or ideas that you will be analyzing in your essay that also relates back to the prompt.
5. Check MLA 8 formatting for header and title (Title should be creative)

Sample Introduction Paragraph:

Jenna Curia
English II
Ms. Allen
13 March 2019

Shift in Power and Point of View

Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart* focuses on a man named Okonkwo and his struggle in adjusting to change and oppression after white missionaries invade his village. His novel focuses on Okonkwo who lives in Mbaino, or present-day Nigeria. Throughout the novel, the audience learns about Okonkwo's life: his achievements, his family, and his temper, which ultimately causes him to be banished from his tribe for almost a decade. Readers live with Okonkwo through his banishment and then his return to Mbaino, which has changed in the years that he has been gone due to the introduction of white Christian missionaries. Achebe gives readers a biography on his fictional character, only to end the novel from the white district commissioner's point of view. This change in point of view is part of Achebe's postcolonial criticism of European's effects on colonized regions, not only in the continent of Africa, but also across the world. The shift in point of view causes the author's purpose to change from being about the importance of someone's life in their native culture to being about the destruction colonization had on one's identity and history, and whose story gets to be told.

In your groups, read the sample paragraph and identify the five components of an introduction paragraph. Label or highlight each component.

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