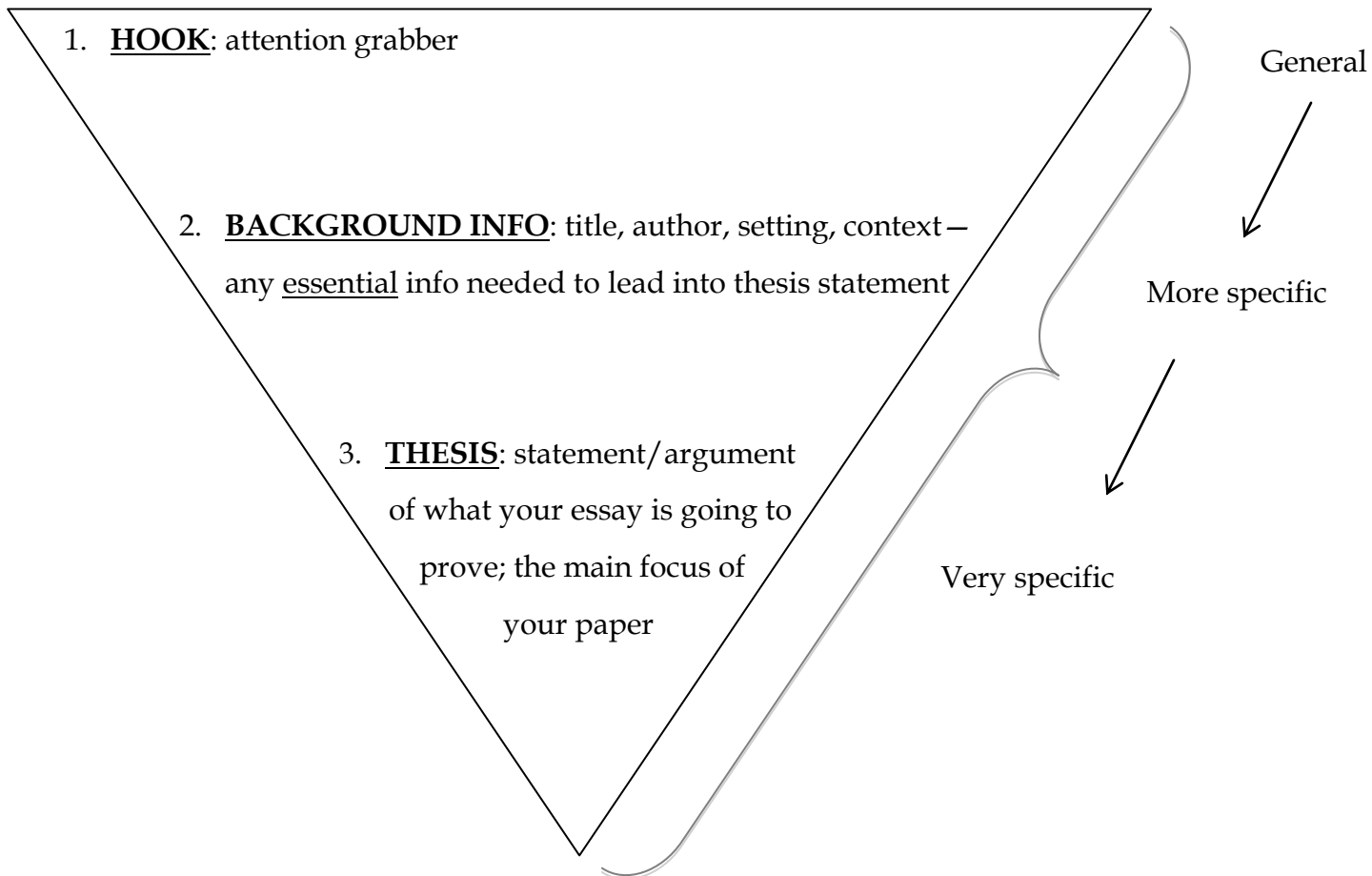


ESSAY INTRODUCTIONS



Identify each of the introduction components in the following introductory paragraph.

1. Hook
2. Background information
3. Thesis statement

Conflicts affect people in various ways, and how they deal with these obstacles says a lot about a person's character. In James McBride's memoir *The Color of Water*, Ruth and James both experience hardships throughout their childhoods and adult lives. Instead of allowing the obstacles to break their spirits, they learn from their experiences and grow stronger as a result. Ruth's hardships teach her what is really important in life and motivate her to fiercely love, protect, and teach her children so they could have better lives than she had. James uses the difficulties he faces as learning experiences, enabling him to better understand himself and to ultimately make something of his life. When people use the obstacles they face as learning experiences, they are better prepared to face the world and succeed.

1. Is this a good introduction?
2. Does it have an interesting hook?
3. Is there enough/too much/just the right amount of background information?
4. Is the thesis strong? What could you do to make it better?

ESSAY BODY PARAGRAPHS

CHUNK FORMAT

Topic sentence: The first sentence of the paragraph that introduces the main idea.

Transitional sentence: Provide CONTEXT (speaker, current situation etc.) of the quote so that the quote makes sense

Concrete detail: Evidence from the text. It can come in the form of a quote, paraphrase, or plot summary.

- ❖ *You don't want any floatin" quotes. Transition into your quotes, and connect the transition and concrete detail with a colon (:).*

Commentary: Your thoughts or analysis about the evidence provided in the concrete detail.

- ❖ *Explain how the quote relates to and proves your thesis statement.*
- ❖ *Provide AT LEAST 3 sentences of commentary.*
- ❖ *DON'T use phrases like "This quote shows..." in your commentary. Instead, just start with whatever you would write after that phrase. Consider using words like: reveals, demonstrates, influences, impacts, etc.*
- ❖ *DON'T use the word "I" in your writing.*

Concluding sentence: The last sentence of the paragraph that ties all of the ideas together.

CITATIONS

How to make a citation: "Quote" (Author page#).

Example:

Physically, Lennie is enormous and is described as having animal-like qualities. He has a very distinct walk: "dragging his feet a little, the way a bear drags his paws" (Steinbeck 2).



Colon joins transitional sentence and concrete detail



Punctuation mark goes here!

ESSAY CONCLUSIONS

