

Nail Your Introduction: Make a Killer First Impression

Introduction to the Lesson

In this lesson, we'll focus on the art of crafting powerful introductions for argumentative essays. You'll learn how to grab your reader's attention, provide essential context, and formulate a strong thesis statement that sets the stage for a persuasive and credible argument.

Key Components of a Killer Introduction

1. Hook: An attention-grabbing opening that piques the reader's interest
2. Context: Brief background information to set the stage for your argument
3. Relevance: Establishing why the topic matters
4. Thesis Statement: A clear, concise statement of your main argument
5. Road Map: A brief overview of the main points you'll cover (optional)

Breakdown: Crafting a Killer Introduction

****1. Hook****

- Startling statistic
- Provocative question
- Vivid anecdote
- Controversial statement
- Relevant quotation

****Exemplars:****

1. "In a world where 2.5 quintillion bytes of data are created every day, who truly owns your digital identity?"
2. "Imagine waking up to find that your entire online history has been erased. For some, this nightmare is a dream come true."
3. "'The right to be left alone is the most comprehensive of rights, and the right most valued by civilised men,' declared Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis in 1928. But in today's digital age, is this right still attainable?"

****2. Context****

- Define key terms
- Provide historical background
- Explain current situation
- Identify key stakeholders

****Exemplars:****

1. "The 'right to be forgotten,' a concept first introduced in European Union law in 2014, allows individuals to request the removal of personal information from internet searches under certain conditions."
2. "As our lives become increasingly digitised, the permanence of online information has become a growing concern for privacy advocates and individuals alike."
3. "In the ongoing battle between privacy rights and freedom of information, tech giants like Google and Facebook find themselves at the centre of a global debate."

****3. Relevance****

- Connect to current events
- Highlight personal impact
- Emphasise societal implications

****Exemplars:****

1. "With data breaches and online harassment on the rise, the question of digital privacy has never been more pressing."
2. "As employers increasingly turn to social media screening, the consequences of our digital pasts can have real-world impacts on our futures."
3. "In an era where cancel culture can derail lives based on past mistakes, the ability to curate one's online presence has become a matter of social and economic survival."

****4. Thesis Statement****

- Clear position
- Debatable claim
- Preview of main arguments

****Exemplars:****

1. "Governments should implement a 'right to be forgotten' law to protect individual privacy, foster personal growth, and maintain a just society in the digital age."
2. "While well-intentioned, the 'right to be forgotten' poses a significant threat to freedom of information, historical accuracy, and public safety, and should not be implemented."
3. "A carefully balanced 'right to be forgotten' law is essential to reconcile the competing interests of personal privacy and public information in the digital era."

****5. Road Map (Optional)****

- Brief overview of main points
- Logical flow of argument

****Exemplar:****

"This essay will examine the necessity of the 'right to be forgotten' by exploring its role in protecting privacy, its potential impact on personal growth and redemption, and its importance in maintaining a just and forgiving society."

Exercise/Activity:

****Introduction Building Blocks****

1. Choose one of the following controversial topics:
 - a) Should social media platforms be required to verify the accuracy of political ads?
 - b) Should governments ban the use of facial recognition technology in public spaces?
 - c) Should internet access be considered a basic human right?
2. For your chosen topic, write:
 - a) Two potential hooks
 - b) A brief context statement
 - c) A relevance statement
 - d) A clear thesis statement
3. Combine your best elements into a cohesive introduction paragraph.
4. Share your introduction with a partner. Evaluate each other's work based on:
 - How engaging is the hook?
 - Is the context clear and concise?
 - Does the relevance statement effectively establish why the topic matters?
 - Is the thesis statement clear, debatable, and preview the main argument?
5. Based on feedback, revise your introduction to make it even more compelling.

Vocabulary List (15 words with meanings):

1. Cogent - Clear, logical, and convincing
2. Contentious - Causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial
3. Nuanced - Characterised by subtle shades of meaning or expression
4. Pertinent - Relevant or applicable to a particular matter
5. Poignant - Evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret
6. Polarising - Dividing into opposing groups, opinions, or beliefs
7. Prolific - Present in large numbers or quantities; plentiful
8. Provocative - Causing anger or another strong reaction, especially deliberately
9. Ramification - A consequence of an action or event, especially when complex or unwelcome
10. Salient - Most noticeable or important; prominent

11. Seminal - Strongly influencing later developments
12. Ubiquitous - Present, appearing, or found everywhere
13. Unprecedented - Never done or known before
14. Vexing - Causing annoyance, frustration, or worry
15. Zealous - Showing great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or objective

Example Introduction:

In an age where our digital footprints seem indelible, the concept of a "right to be forgotten" has emerged as a contentious issue. Every day, 2.5 quintillion bytes of data are created, forming a prolific and often permanent record of our lives online. This digital permanence has led to vexing situations where past mistakes, embarrassing moments, or outdated information continue to haunt individuals long after their relevance has faded. The European Union introduced the right to be forgotten in 2014, allowing individuals to request the removal of personal information from internet searches under certain conditions. As data breaches and online harassment become increasingly ubiquitous, the question of digital privacy has never been more pertinent. The ramifications of our digital pasts can have real-world impacts on our futures, affecting employment opportunities, personal relationships, and mental well-being. Given these unprecedented challenges, it is imperative that governments worldwide implement a carefully balanced "right to be forgotten" law to protect individual privacy, foster personal growth, and maintain a just society in the digital age. This essay will examine the necessity of such a law by exploring its role in safeguarding privacy, its potential to facilitate redemption and personal development, and its importance in preserving a forgiving and equitable society in our increasingly digital world.