

Argument Writing: The Introductory Paragraph



The paragraph below is an introductory paragraph to what could be a whole essay. Only the first paragraph of the essay is provided because you will be taking a very close look at how it is structured. In the chart below, read the description for each of the five main parts of an introductory paragraph. Then find that part in the paragraph and put the corresponding letter in the first column of the chart.

Having 1:1 Computers in School

Do computers help adults do their work? Do they help people learn?

For many years, students have had the opportunity to access computers in school. They could go to the computer lab or the library before or after school, or if they were lucky, their school had a classroom set of computers on a cart that their teacher could check out for the class for a specific activity. While this progress has improved student learning, it is not enough. Studies show that students who attend schools that have a 1:1 computer policy do better academically. This policy enables every student to have a computer assigned to them for their use in and out of school. Also, to prepare students for the world they will enter when they graduate, schools need to prepare students with a strong background in computers science. Last, with the ever-growing selection of learning apps, websites, and software, students who don't have access to them on a regular basis will fall behind in their use of technology. In order to give students the best possible chance at academic success and for them to thrive in the world, schools should adopt a 1:1 computer policy.

 = A  = B  = C  = D  = E  = F



Match with letter (A-F) that corresponds with the part of the essay as described below.	Part of the introductory paragraph	Description
	HOOK	The part of the introductory paragraph that draws the reader in.
	BACKGROUND	Give the readers some context about the issue in one or two sentences.
	REASON #1	The sentence that summarizes the first reason that supports your claim.
	REASON #2	The sentence that summarizes the second reason that supports your claim.
	REASON #3	The sentence that summarizes the third reason that supports your claim.
	CLAIM	The statement that summarizes the main idea that you are arguing in the essay. It's like a topic sentence for the whole essay.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think this is an effective introductory paragraph? Why or why not? What would you change?
2. Did the hook make you want to hear more? If not, how would you rewrite it?
3. Write an alternate hook using another strategy (one word beginning, interesting fact, quotation, paint a picture, etc.).

