**Introductions (Informative)**

**(Adapted by Mrs. Day from *by Soheila Battaglia, Demand Media*)**

When writing an introduction to an informative essay, it’s really not much different than an argumentative one. Again, you want to set the reader’s expectations for a well-written, well-organized essay.

**Start With a Hook/Attention Getter**

Start your introduction with a sentence that gets the reader interested in the topic. To pique the reader's interest, you can begin with a quotation, a very short personal story, a surprising statistic, or an interesting question. For example, if you are writing about earthquakes, you can start your introduction by referencing a statistic from a verified source: "Earthquakes kill thousands of people every year.” This strategy grabs the reader's attention while introducing the topic of the essay. DO NOT simply re-state the question like this, “Have you ever thought the effects of earthquakes. BORING.

**Include Background**

Providing readers with background on the topic allows them to better understand the issue being presented. This information provides context and history that can be crucial to explaining and arguing your point. For example, if your essay is about the Declaration of Independence, your introduction could include a brief overview of the events leading up to 1776. You might also introduce the major figures in the story. Keep this history short, though, you can go into greater detail in the body of your essay.

**State Your Thesis/Claim**

The thesis is the essence of an informative essay. In a single, clear sentence, it sums up what point you are trying to make. The thesis statement should do the following: **answer the question** (prompt), and **give the reader a clear picture of the essay to come**. For example, if a professor assigns the general topic of war, you can formulate the following thesis: "The reasons for warfare are many, but they often include issues of land, religion, and defense." With that thesis, your reader knows what to expect in your three body paragraphs. The rest of your essay serves to explain and provide evidence in support of your thesis statement.

**What to Leave Out**

A good introduction should not be describing evidence or providing analysis that belong in the body paragraphs. Your introduction should introduce and set up your point, rather than lay out evidence to support it. Also, while your intro. is a road map for the rest of the essay, you shouldn't explicitly announce what you’re writing about: "I am going to tell you about..." This type of set up does not add any pertinent information and only serves as filler.