

Research Papers:  
Ranking Introductions

**Overview:** The introductory paragraph is a critical piece of any paper that you write: it serves to hook your reader's attention, offers an overview of your paper, establishes your thesis statement/controlling idea, and sets the tone for what is to come. As you prepare your introduction for your Senior Research Paper, you might find the following guidelines and examples useful:

Suggested format for the Introductory Paragraph:

- **Hook:** Catchy opening (quote/anecdote/questions/statistics, etc.) to get your reader's attention. (Minimum of 3-4 sentences; could definitely be longer).
- **Overview:** An outline/summary of what you will cover in your research paper; your literal, supporting questions may assist you in developing this. (3-4 sentences)
- **Research question:** you should conclude the introductory paragraph with your *overall research question*; this is your thesis statement!

**Directions:** Based on the criteria above, rank the following introductions. Let #1 represent the introduction that is most effective and #6 represent the one which needs the most strengthening.

A.

Immigration

"All those wetbacks just come to take our jobs, mess up the economy, and live off welfare." Imagine hearing this behind your back, knowing that your family immigrated to the United States to try and achieve the "American Dream." A lot of people do not have to imagine, they have to live it- and they say nothing about it because of their fear of getting deported. Many people say that illegal immigrants do not deserve their basic rights, yet people from this point of view do not see the obstacles that any illegal immigrant goes through to be treated with equality. My paper will focus on how immigrants impact California. To address this question I will consider the history of immigration in the U.S, the reasons that immigrants have for coming to this country, the impact of coming on them, and finally the consequences or struggles illegal immigrants have once they enter California.

B.

Marcus the Great

A great man once said, "Working together as team we can develop the solidarity and unanimity of purpose that will deliver quality education to all." (Foster). Marcus Foster, the speaker of these words, is now lying dead, six-feet under because of the changes he wanted to make. Marcus Foster, former superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District, was assassinated on November 6, 1973 by the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA). In my research I will cover who and what kind of man Marcus Foster was, what he accomplished, who the Symbionese Liberation Army was, what they stood for, and most importantly why, Marcus Foster was a target and how his assassination affected Oakland.

C.

Peer Pressure

We all at some point in our lives have wanted to fit into a certain group in order to feel like we really belong. Often, however, this gets us into trouble. Hearing those three words, "Everyone's doing it," can often make us do things we do not plan to do. This is known as peer pressure. What is peer pressure? Moreover, what role does peer pressure play in influencing teen behavior? Before we look at the influences of peer pressure, we must first understand what it is.

D.

#### The Importance of Arts Education

When I am creating a work of art my mind gets ahead of itself, and my imagination begins to run at a rapid pace. Nothing is more amazing than starting off with a blank sheet of paper and ending up with something priceless. What is even more priceless, however, is how I find my mind working in similar ways in my classes. I read in between the lines in literature; I notice that I am able to see patterns in math problems. Through my experiences with art, school is made easier. Art helps me to be quick at learning. Art is very important so there should be no reason why it should be cut out from our public schools, yet it seems like we get less quality art classes every year. In my paper I will discuss how arts education affects academic and social skills, how art is used as a tool for motivation and how it benefits students later on in life. The overall question I will address is how is art essential towards our academic development?

E.

#### The State Of Learning Disabilities

Have you ever looked at a paper and read what you thought you saw but when you looked down again it was a different word? Have you ever written a paper and repeatedly written the same thing over and over? Have you ever done a math problem and completely confused the positives for negatives? These might be symptoms of learning disabilities. Society labels learning disabilities a disease meaning that many are being diagnose and some are trying to find a treatment; "The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Report to Congress by the U.S Department of Education 2002" declares, "... One out of every five people in the United States has a learning disability. Almost 3 million children (ages 6-21) have some form of a learning disability..." Learning disabilities affect various ages, genders, and ethnicities. Consequently, there are a wide range of ways diagnose and treat learning disabilities. Furthermore, learning disabilities are addressed from a different standpoint than any other disability because a learning disability is mental and isn't physical. Also because of their seriousness and how general they are. In my research paper I will cover how learning disabilities are diagnosed, the influences on diagnoses and treatment, the challenges to diagnosing and addressing learning disabilities, and how effective society is at addressing and treating learning disabilities

F.

#### No Longer is Hip-Hop Nineteen Seventies Hip-Hop

From the break-beats by Kool Herc and the pop-locking moves of Mr. Wiggles, to the trunk-rattling sounds of Lil' Jon, hip-hop has come a long way since it was first established in the early nineteen-seventies. But to what does hip-hop owe its lasting success? The vitality and essence of hip-hop is kept alive by the people who purchase and listen to the music, break-dance on a busy street corner, MC to the scratching of a DJ, and provide us with the visual ecstasy of a graffiti mural; the practitioners of hip-hop keep the culture alive. And so, what exactly is the message behind hip-hop and what is its purpose? What accounts for its popularity? The advertisement and marketing of hip-hop have played a huge role in the promotion and introduction of hip-hop to not only America, but to the entire world. But has the media's interference with hip-hop tainted its purity? Has the generalization of such an impacting lifestyle disintegrated the purpose of being an MC, a b-boy, a DJ, or a graffiti artist? How has time affected hip-hop's messages? In other words, how has the assimilation of hip-hop over the past thirty-seven years affected the integrity of its culture?