

Introductions & Conclusions

Informative Writing

Forming an Introduction

Hook: Grab your reader's attention.

Background Info: What is the topic at hand? What do we need to know about this topic before reading?

Thesis: Copy and paste the thesis we developed previously.

Overview (optional): Give readers a sneak peek. What can they expect to read about in your paper?

Writing a Stellar Hook

Ask yourself:

- Who is my audience?
- How do I want my audience to feel?

Attention Grabbers:

- Provide a story.
- Reveal a startling fact.
- Give an inspirational quote.

TIP: It's a good idea to write this last. This way, you can better capture the tone and purpose of your essay.

Example Introduction

Hook: A staggering 2.2 million people are currently serving time in U.S. jails or prisons. Let's put this into perspective: that exceeds the entire population of New Mexico and stands as the highest prison population in the entire world (Borowski, "18 Facts You Need to Know About US Prisons").

Background Info: Prison populations are continuing to skyrocket in recent decades as more individuals are incarcerated for non-violent drug offences.

Thesis: Prison overcrowding ultimately causes more problems for prisons' inmates and staff.

Overview (optional): By overcrowding jails and prisons, we hinder the inmate's ability to rehabilitate, increase in-cell brutality, and prematurely release violent criminals.

Example Introduction

A staggering 2.2 million people are currently serving time in U.S. jails or prisons. Let's put this into perspective: that exceeds the entire population of New Mexico and stands as the highest prison population in the entire world (Borowski, "18 Facts You Need to Know About US Prisons"). Prison populations are continuing to skyrocket in recent decades as more individuals are incarcerated for non-violent drug offences. Prison overcrowding ultimately causes more problems for prisons' inmates and staff. By overcrowding jails and prisons, we hinder the inmate's ability to rehabilitate, increase in-cell brutality, and prematurely release violent criminals.

Concluding Your Argument

Reword Thesis: Reiterate your thesis, but do not simply copy and paste it.

Summarize: What were your main points?

Relate to Intro: Bring your essay full-circle and relate it back to the hook or your title.

Example Conclusion

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Reword Thesis: Prison overcrowding will continue having adverse effects on incarcerated individuals until the issue is reversed.

Summarize: Decreasing prison overcrowding provides inmates with the space and time to rehabilitate before being released. It also allows staff and prisoners to deal with violence effectively and fairly.

Relate to Intro: As Americans, we can be proud of our nation's many accomplishments, but having the highest prison populations is nothing to brag about.

Example Conclusion

Prison overcrowding will continue having adverse effects on incarcerated individuals until the issue is reversed. Decreasing prison overcrowding provides inmates with the space and time to rehabilitate before being released. It also allows staff and prisoners to deal with violence effectively and fairly. As Americans, we can be proud of our nation's many accomplishments, but having the highest prison populations is nothing to brag about.