**Essay Introductions**

**An effective introductory paragraph contains 3 main parts**:

* Hook - the first sentence of your introduction paragraph which grabs your reader's attention and "hooks" your reader into your piece.
* Background Information - Background information BUILDS background knowledge for the reader: including anything s/he will need to know in order to understand your essay.
* Thesis Statement - a complete sentence that contains the main idea for the essay. A thesis statement is usually followed by a preview which helps a reader know how the essay will be organized.

**The hook draws in your audience.**

**Sample Introduction Paragraph:**

When I was young, I would often gather my dolls together and pretend to teach them how to do math problems or how to read a book. It was almost as if being a teacher was programmed into my DNA. As I grew older, my desire to become a teacher became clearer as I did some volunteer teaching overseas and in the United States. **As I look back on my reasons for becoming a teacher, I realize that I became one to help people. I wanted my students to gain a love for the English language, communicate their unique ideas and perspectives, and share their creativity with the world.**

**Provides background information for the reader**

The **thesis statement** contains the main ideas. **It includes the PREVIEW:** helps the reader know how the essay will be organized.

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