

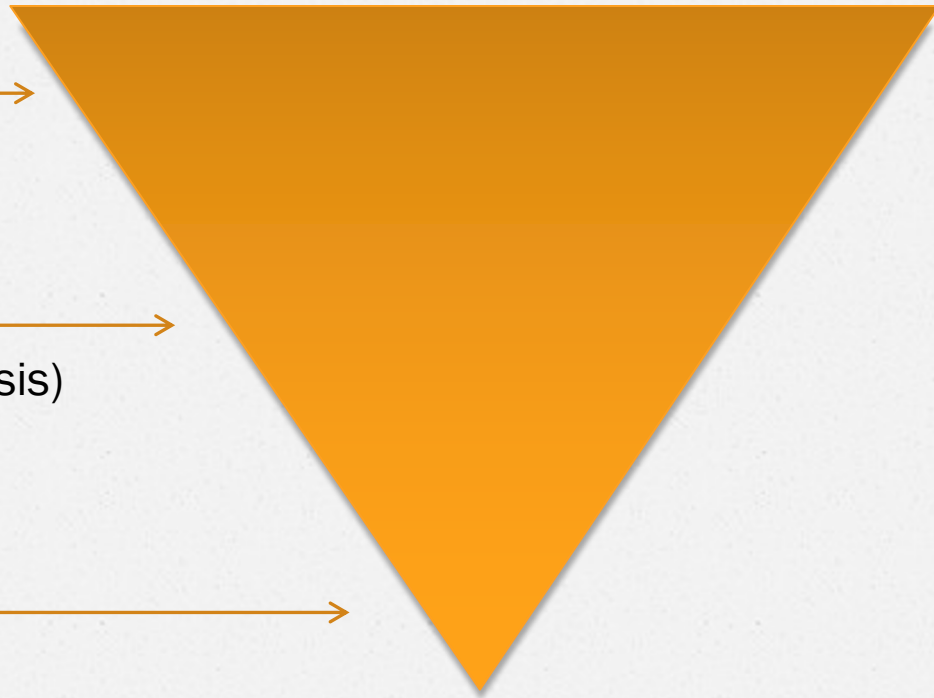
Introductions
&
Conclusions

Introduction Review

Hook →
(Grabs attention)

Narrowing →
(connect hook to thesis)

Thesis →



What's a Hook?



- o General def: “a curved or bent device for catching, holding, or pulling”
- o Applied to writing: something to catch the attention of your reader and hold onto it, pulling the reader into your topic
- o What it is NOT: a short sentence or two that just restates your topic/thesis
- o Instead: a hook takes a broad look at your topic and introduces it in an interesting way

Possible Hooks:

- o Provide a definition or an unusual detail
- o Start with a strong statement
- o Begin with a quotation (be sure to tie to to the topic at hand)
- o Offer a compelling anecdote or story
- o Give a related statistic or fact
- o Open with a thought-provoking question
- o Jump in with an exaggerated or outrageous statement

Examples:

o Start with a strong statement:

In the case of political leadership, character matters. Though many believe the office of the president to have been populated historically by upstanding gentlemen of character, it is in fact the case that a number of rubes and rogues have occupied the White House.

Examples:

o Begin with a quotation:

George Washington is quoted as saying “A good moral character is the first essential. It is highly important not only to be learned but to be virtuous” (AZ quotes). As president, Washington set the precedent for the behavior of our nation’s highest office holder. However, this did not last, as the character of many presidents since did not hold up to his example.

Examples:

o Offer a compelling anecdote or story:

The boy laboriously hunches over his school book, meticulously copying the small type imprinted there. He is careful to note each word exactly, beginning again where he makes an error. The book he copies from is “110 Rules of Civility,” whose lessons he will imbibe throughout his lifetime, causing him to be known as a man of character as he leads the country as our first president.

Examples:

o Jump in with a thought provoking question:
What should the first task be for a man who has just been granted leadership of a brand-new country? What thoughts go through his mind? What has prepared him for this undertaking? For George Washington, a lifetime of good character had made him ready to accept this challenge, but those who attempted to follow in his footsteps have made plenty of mis-steps along the way.

After the Hook:

- o Connect your hook to your thesis with a transition sentence or two
- o Make it clear to your reader how the hook and the thesis connect
- o Finish with your thesis statement

Example from previous hooks:

Quote: Transition: Thesis

George Washington is quoted as saying “A good moral character is the first essential. It is highly important not only to be learned but to be virtuous” (AZ quotes). As president, Washington set the precedent for the behavior of our nation’s highest office holder. However, this did not last, as the character of many presidents since did not hold up to his example. The United States has experienced presidents of good character who were poor leaders in addition to men of questionable character who led well. Though character is an important aspect of a morally upright person, the possession of good character does not automatically make one a suitable political leader.

Example from previous hooks:

Strong statement: Transition: Thesis

In the case of political leadership, character matters. Though many believe the office of the president to have been populated historically by upstanding gentlemen of character, it is in fact the case that a number of rubes and rogues have occupied the White House. The United States has experienced presidents of good character who were poor leaders in addition to men of questionable character who led well. Though character is an important aspect of a morally upright person, the possession of good character does not automatically make one a suitable political leader.

Sample Intro

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18 ESV). In many circumstances of failure, pride sits in the background, often a contributing culprit. Everyone displays pride to some extent, but desolation and ruin enter when pride becomes the top priority. Throughout history pride lay at the root of havoc and defeat: Napoleon Bonaparte’s attempt to invade Russia, Hitler’s march on Stalingrad simply for the name, and of course, Custer’s Last Stand. George Custer often exhibited his prideful character at the worst of times. As he progressed in his life and career, his pride multiplied, until it influenced his judgement in a major way. This powerful emotion swelled to a dangerous level in Montana, at his final battle. Custer’s pride and drive for glory ultimately led to his demise and the needless death of his troops at Little Bighorn.

Sample Intro

Rotten fruit sometimes looks beautiful, healthy and ripe on the outside but one bite reveals the decaying interior. The fruit suddenly loses its appeal. However, no matter how hard someone gags on and spits out that first bite, a revolting taste still lingers for quite some time afterward. The Chinese immigrants had a similar experience with America, viewing it from the outside as a shining land of wealth and peace. Upon entering it, though, they found discrimination and virtual slavery, the impression of which lasted decades. Coming to America seeking peace and work and although initially welcomed, Chinese immigrants became the first people group (besides African American slaves) to endure consistent persecution, unjustly beaten down for their racial background in a land of freedom and equality, forced to withstand the worst versions of racism and social prejudices.

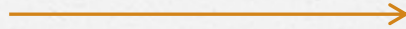
Sample Intro

Not a strong example—why not?

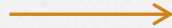
“Although we will never know the complete history, we do know a lot about [The Underground Railroad]. The bravery, daring, kindness, and sacrifice of many people are not legend but fact. And it is important that what is known be remembered” (Nofi 13). The Underground Railroad immensely helped in the time it was needed. The Underground Railroad is remembered today, which shows that it played an important role in history. Without the Underground Railroad, slaves might still live the awful lives of the past, but because of its significance, people, and routes, the Underground Railroad became a success and positively transformed history.

Conclusion Review

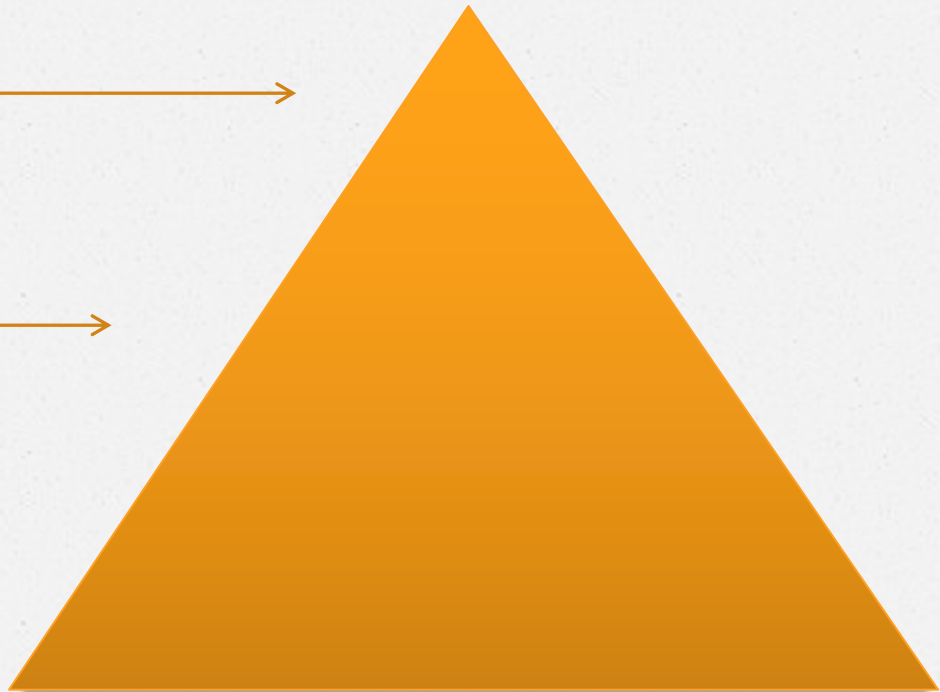
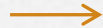
Restate thesis
(in different words)



Review main points
(avoid redundancy)



Emotional Ending
(connect to hook)



Sample Conclusion

The disaster of Little Bighorn resulted from the profligate pride of a man. The temerarious actions in battle caused the death of not only Custer himself, but his troops. From his start at West Point to his demise at Little Bighorn, Custer bowed before his ravenous ego. As his career progressed Custer's pride stunted his maturity. Pride displays its dangers time and time again, often evident through prominent leaders such as Hitler or Napoleon. These men doomed their soldiers all because of their pride. This treacherous affliction touches mankind universally, causing them internal struggle. Like a disease, when pride consumes one's character, destruction awaits. Pride goes before the fall.

Sample Conclusion

Instead of the peace and work they hoped for coming into America, the Chinese found discrimination, persecution and extreme racism beating down on them. They ran from China due to foreign powers, hoping to find gold in America, strike it rich and then return home. They helped to build a railroad spanning the entire nation, but in the process social tensions grew. The government tried to ease the growing strain between whites and Asian newcomers but only made it worse with the Exclusion Acts. These acts spread, giving way to total chaos for the Chinese. Racism and extremists ran rampant, bringing death and destruction with them. What had looked like a golden opportunity for the desperate Chinese from the outside, turned out to have a rotten core once further investigated. No amount of 'cleansing' could ever erase the disgusting first impression.

Sample Conclusion

Not a strong example—why not?

The Underground Railroad played a key part in slavery. Because of the Underground Railroad, slaves can be free from the problems they faced. Due to the Underground Railroad's significance, people, routes, and spies, the history of America will forever be altered. The Underground Railroad was not easily invented or carried out, but it did become a success and positively affected history. "The Underground Railroad is not just a story about America or Americans, but one that stands as an example to all humanity of what people of good will and courage can accomplish to right injustices" (Nofi, *The Underground Railroad* 58).