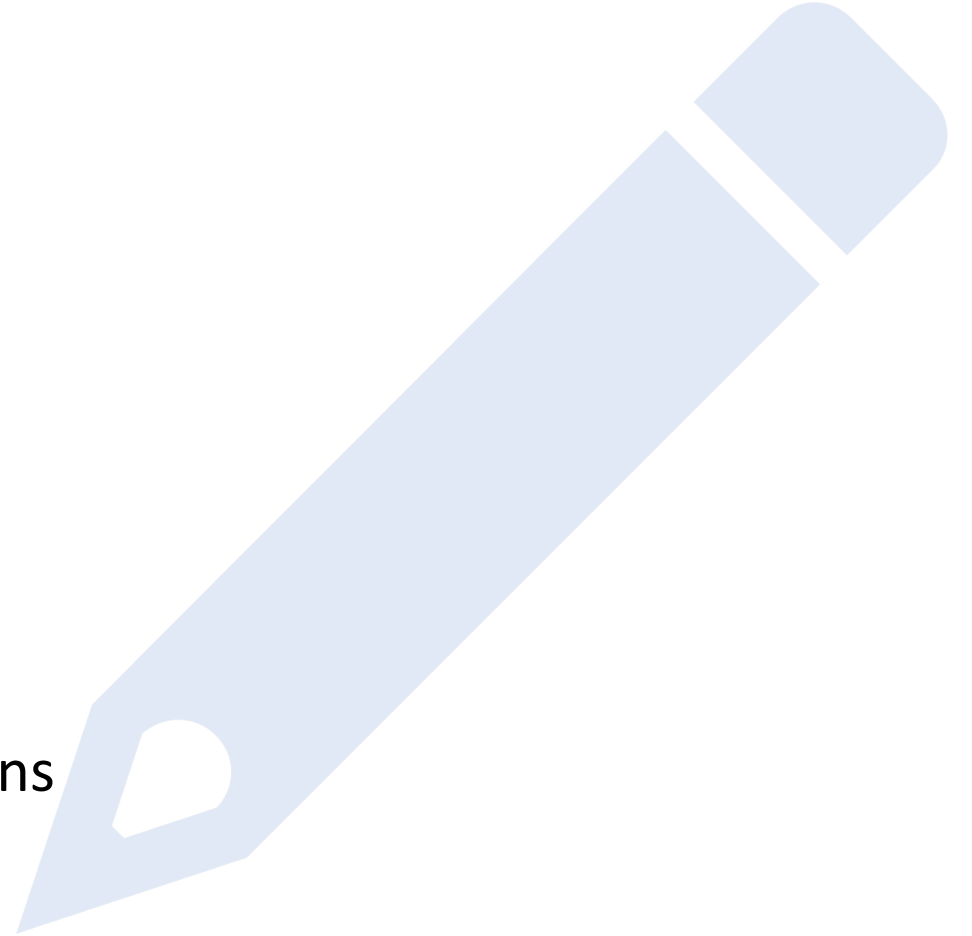




# Essay Success!

Introductions, Conclusions, Transitions



## Strategies for the Introduction Paragraph:

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The introduction paragraph in an essay of literary analysis functions as follows:

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It arouses curiosity and focuses the reader's attention on the topic

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It specifies your subject and implies your attitude/tone

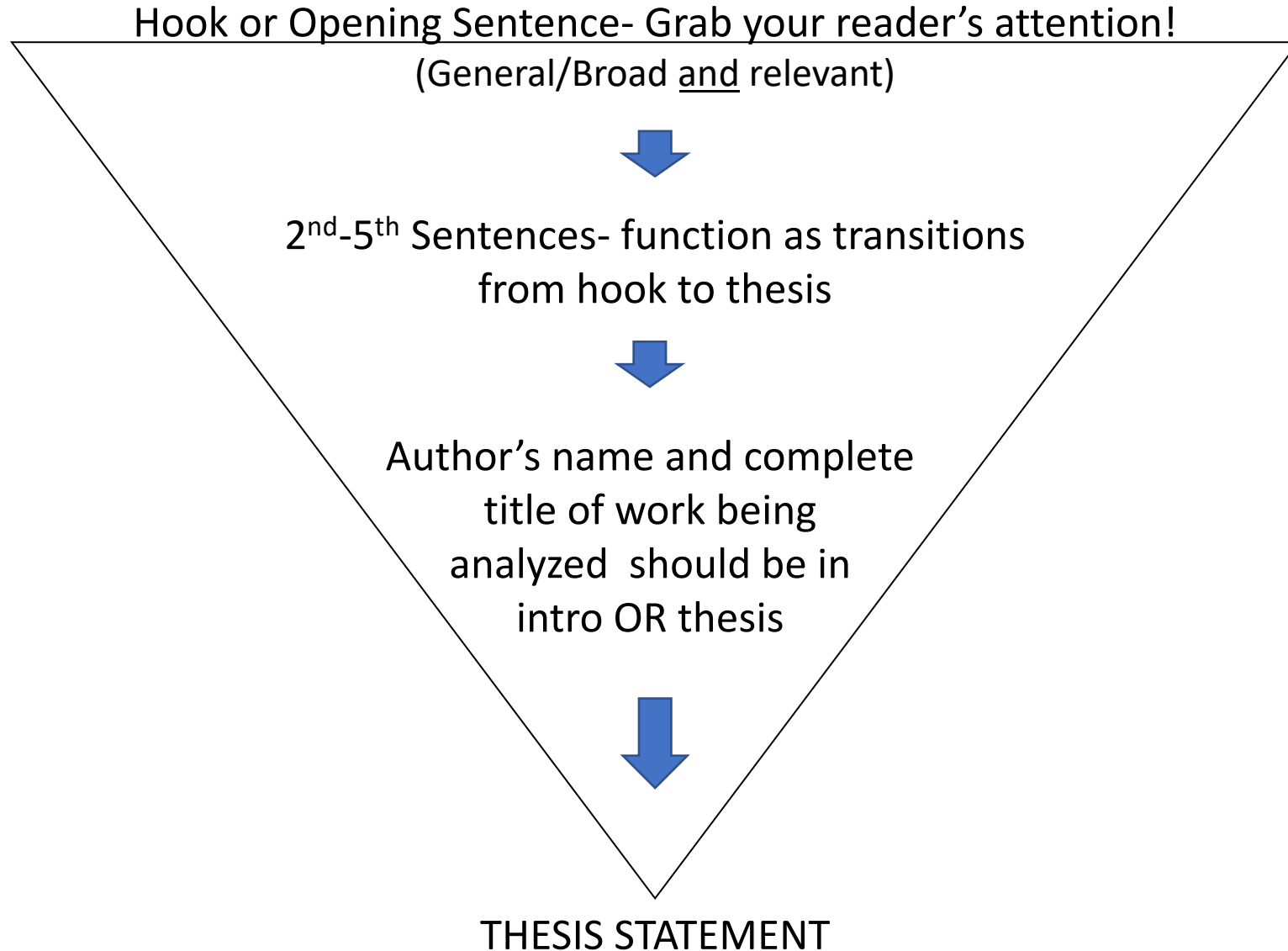
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It provides background necessary to understand the thesis statement

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It comes to a point with the thesis statement

# Anatomy of the Introduction:



## Strategies for Composing Hooks or Opening Statements:

- Use a vivid quotation
- Create a visual image that represents your subject
- Create an analogy for your subject
- Offer a surprising/interesting statistic or other fact
- Ask a question or define a word central to your subject (Note= Use these techniques very sparingly and cautiously, as they may be considered cliché)

BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR HOOK **GENERAL AND RELEVANT!**

# Anatomy of the Conclusion:

**Begins with a restated thesis- AVOID repetition**



Borrow ideas  
from the body  
paragraphs  
without being  
overly repetitive



Gradually widens to include  
broader implications/applications



Ends leaving the reader with a larger perspective  
of the issues discussed.

**\*\*Hint: Refer back to hook!!!**

## Strategies for the Conclusion Paragraph:

The conclusion paragraph in a literary analysis essay functions as follows:

- It restates the thesis and contains echoes of the introduction and body paragraphs without listing the points covered in the essay
- It finishes off the essay and tells readers where the writer has brought them
- It creates a broader implication of the ideas discussed and answers the question “So what?”

# TRANSITIONS

Transition wording belongs in two places:

**1. Between evidences within body paragraphs**

Examples: Also, in addition to, furthermore, moreover, likewise, etc.

**2. Between paragraphs**

EITHER: Transition within the clincher

OR: Transition within the topic sentence

**\*\*Variety is key! Vary your transitions!! Remember, move beyond the basic “first, second, third, next, last”**

# Sample Intro

## A Scarlet Legacy

“ON A FIELD, SABLE, THE LETTER A, GULES” (316). In a town near Salem forever lies an inscription on a grave, capturing the summary of a life of mixed emotions. In the 17th century a woman, destined to wear her punishment for the world to gaze upon, receives stinging torture for her crimes of adultery from the product of her sin. Her own daughter bestows painful, unintentional blows by way of childish innocence. In *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne utilizes Pearl to lead readers along the path of Hester Prynne’s ignominy and suffering, reducing her memory to a mere letter.

Hook → Transition → Thesis



# Sample Conclusion

Hawthorne amplifies Hester's pain throughout *The Scarlet Letter* by way of the being that Hester lives for: her little Pearl. During Pearl's childhood, she continuously and unintentionally brings her mother misery through her innocent actions. The torment which this daughter delivers to her mother creates a lasting impact. The miseries lead a mother along a path that causes her agonizing mark of shame to be her legacy. Forever left on a tombstone; a sentence that captures the terrible events of a life lived in pain.

Thesis → Review Main Points → Point back to Hook

# Sample Intro

## Illumination and the Sinful Heart

A young woman with glossy black hair and a proud smile stands on the scaffold bearing an elaborately embroidered letter “A” on her breast and clutching the token of her sin in her arms. The townspeople, knowing her crime, had decided to drag her iniquity out into the sunshine. Her partner remains hidden in the shadows. This is the scenario that sets the stage for Nathaniel Hawthorne’s novel, *The Scarlet Letter*. Throughout the course of the story, Hawthorne draws comparisons between light and dark and what they represent, as well as how they play out in the characters’ lives. In *The Scarlet Letter*, Hawthorne uses light and dark as symbols to illuminate the characters’ development as they attempt to overcome their sin.

Hook → Transition → Thesis

# Sample Conclusion

Hawthorne uses symbols of light and dark to develop his characters. The light surrounding Hester and Dimmesdale represents how they deal with their sin. Sunlight changes from a symbol of exposure, to a symbol of false escape, to a symbol of redemption. Dimmesdale goes from man hiding his sin, to a man redeemed by God. For him, light represents redemption. Hester never really repents. In the end, for her, the light is gloomier than the shadow. Hawthorne creates powerful imagery of light and dark to reveal his characters feelings toward their sin.

Thesis → Review Main Points → Point Back to Hook

