

Let's use the Intro
Paragraph Skills Check to
think about how we answer
an essay question.

First, you read the question.

Write an extended
response that shows
how your literature
circle novel is
implementing two
separate
characteristics of a
dystopia.

What's the first thing you
think when seeing this
question?

It should be:

Where is my
characteristics of dystopia
list, and which two should I
pick?

Characteristics of Dystopia:

Characteristics of a Dystopian Society

- Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society.
- Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
- A figurehead or concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.
- Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
- Citizens have a fear of the outside world.
- Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
- The natural world is banished and distrusted.
- Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
- The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.

I'm going to show you how I would do this this using
“The Veldt”

What characteristics do I
want to focus on in my
essay?

Citizens live in a
dehumanized state

Citizens have a fear of the
outside world

Now I have the focus
of my essay and I can
write the thesis.

What is the topic of this essay/how do I write a hook?

My thoughts- I'm writing about the characteristics of a dystopia, so I'm writing about how stories show the problems of trying to create a perfect world.

General statements start should start with ideas like...

In life, people...

In literature, authors...

Everyone experiences...

Etc.

Using those three sentence starters, I could use any of these hooks...

In life, people can suffer when well-intended ideas have unintended consequences.

In literature, authors can teach readers the dangers of attempting to create a perfect world.

Everyone experiences unintended consequences of intended good ideas at one time or another.

Why are they good hooks?

They address the topic of the essay in a general way and can relate to almost anyone. They are written in statement form.

Reminder:

Hook

The hook is the very first sentence of the essay. It should be written as a statement that “hooks” the reader into being interested in the topic of your essay. **It is not a question.** It should be very general and apply to almost anyone but still be on topic. To figure out what the topic of the essay is, look for key words in the essay question or writing prompt. **The hook should NEVER mention the specific literature or characters that will be discussed in the essay.** If it did, it would be specific, not general.

How do I write my t.a.g.?

Reminder:

TAG

TAG stands for **title, author, genre**. The second sentence of the essay should be more specific than the first. It should state the information about the literature that will be discussed in the essay. Remember titles of major works get underlined (or italicized if typed), authors' names start with capital letters (first and last), and genre is the type of work it is. By genre, we mean poem, short story, novel, play, song, etc...; we do not mean historical fiction, realistic fiction, science fictions, etc.... The TAG should also connect the literature to the topic of the essay mentioned in the hook. Usually all TAG information can be found in the essay question or writing prompt.

“The Veldt”, a dystopian short story by Ray Bradbury shows readers the dangers of trying to create a perfect world through its characters.

How do I write my thesis?

Reminder:

Thesis

The thesis ends the introduction. It is the most important sentence of the essay. It informs readers of the specific point that the writer will make in the essay. It is more specific than the hook or the TAG. It establishes the focus of the entire essay. It should encompass a bit of each body paragraph planned for the essay. To determine the point you are supposed to be making, you should look at what the essay question or writing prompt asks you to do or prove.

The daily lives of characters in the happy life home demonstrate the dystopian qualities of citizens living in a dehumanized state and possessing fear of the outside world.

So, you're introduction paragraph looks like this:

Everyone experiences unintended consequences of intended good ideas at one time or another. "The Veldt", a dystopian short story by Ray Bradbury shows readers the dangers of trying to create a perfect world through its characters. The daily lives of characters in the happy life home demonstrate the dystopian qualities of citizens living in a dehumanized state and possessing fear of the outside world.

You're about to get your skills check back. In the performance standards, I circled parts of the requirements that were missing or not fully complete in your work. Comparing those parts to mine should help you see what you can do to improve yours. This is the key to being successful in the first essay, which we are about to start.

What questions do you have?