

Writing Introductions for an In-Class Final Essay

As we have said in class before, a good introduction for an in-class essay like the Final Essay should do the following things:

- **Mention your two source texts briefly, including the author and title of the two works** you will be discussing.
- If you feel comfortable with the readings, you can have one sentence on what each source text is about. (This is not required.)
- **Agree or disagree with essay prompt statement in clear language.** Use the exact wording of the essay prompt.
- **Place your thesis statement at the end of your introductory (first) paragraph.**
- **Remember to save your reasons or ideas for you body paragraphs.** DO NOT summarize your evidence or reasons in the introduction.

● EXAMPLES

Analyze the following sample introductions. Which ones are the best?
What's wrong with the others?

(The examples use the 3 prompts from Essay #5. Of course, the same texts and similar topics or themes will be on the Final Essay.)

Prompt #1

(1)

Some authors have written on the idea of the Internet and its effects on our attention span. It is a complicated issue. I agree that the Internet is negatively affecting our attention span and the way we read.

(2)

Several recent authors have written about the Internet and and its effects on our attention span. Nicholas Carr's essay "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" points out the disadvantages of the Internet on the way we think. Irene Pepperberg's "I

Think Therefore I Am – Still Me” also shows the positive and negative impact of the Internet on her attention span. I agree in some ways and disagree in others that the Internet is negatively affecting our attention span and the way we read.

(3)

Several recent authors have written about the Internet and its effects on our attention span. Nicholas Carr’s essay “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” points out the disadvantages of the Internet on the way we think. Irene Pepperberg’s “I Think Therefore I Am – Still Me” also shows the positive and negative impact of the Internet on her ways of thinking. I agree that the Internet is negatively affecting our attention span and the way we read.

(4)

I disagree that the Internet is negatively affecting our attention span and the way we read. Several recent authors have written about human cloning. Nicholas Carr’s essay “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” points out the disadvantages of the Internet on the way we think. Similarly, Irene Pepperberg’s “I Think Therefore I Am – Still Me” also shows the positive impact of the Internet on her attention span. There are some valid reasons why the Internet is affecting the way we think.

****Discussion Questions**

1) Which introduction is best? Why?

2) What’s wrong with the others? How could they be improved? Write down some problems to fix in each incorrect introduction.

(~10 – 15 + min.)