

How to Write Convincing and Pertinent Opinion texts

Part 1: Writing an Introduction

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The MELS' Exam (Core Program)

A⁺

- You will write an opinion text

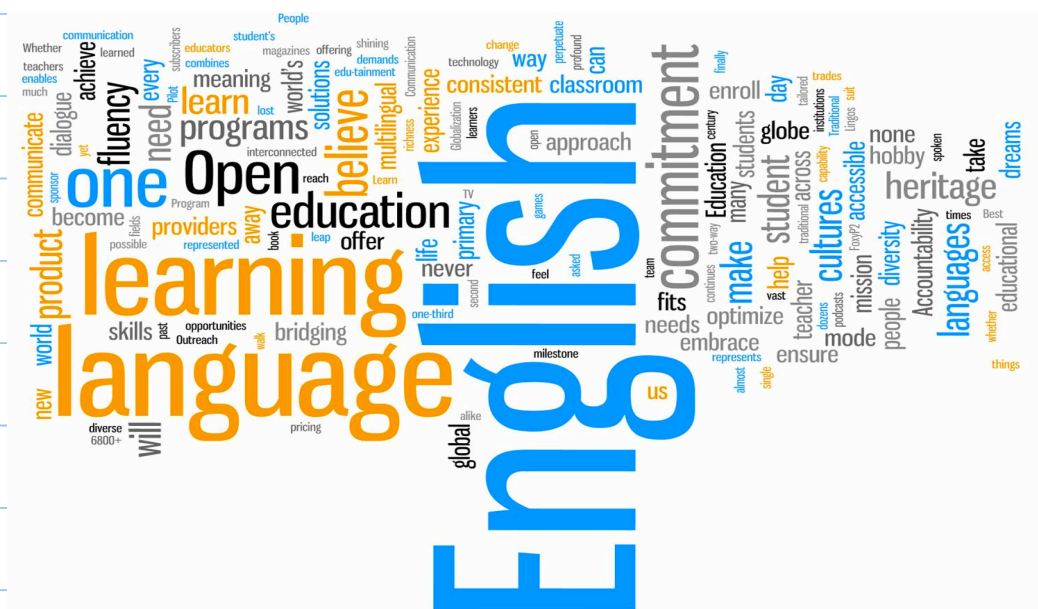
- It counts for 50 % of competency 3 (Writes and produces texts)

In this lesson, we will...

- take a look at the essential elements of an introduction

- read and analyze different introductions

- write introductions



The Parts of the Introduction

Yellow: hook

Blue: position statement

Opinion Text	Approx. 225 words
Introduction	Approx. 40 words
Body	Approx. 145 words
Conclusion	Approx. 40 words

Limit the use of "I"

TIP

Hook

Get the reader's attention (Ask a question, use a powerful statement, use a description, etc.)

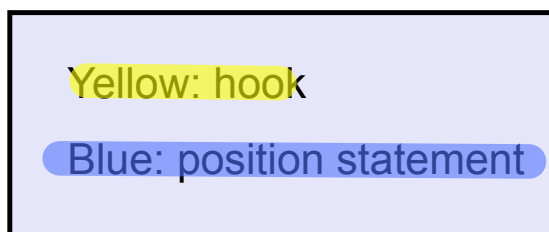
**Position
Statement**

State your opinion

Task 1 : Finding the hook and the position statement

Examples of introductions:

Highlight the different parts of the following introductions. Use the suggested colours.



Is the school cafeteria food killing you?

Beware! It will kill us all! The school cafeteria food is slowly but surely killing the student body one by one! If nothing is done about it, a whole generation will be wiped out!

Should a curfew for teenagers be imposed in cities across Québec?

Teenagers are troublemakers. They should not be roaming the streets at one o'clock in the morning. If we want to save our cities from graffiti and vandalism, a curfew must be imposed to teens across the province.

Should 5-year-old children be beauty queens?

What's wrong with this picture? Kaitlin is 5 years old. She wears make-up, fake nails, and fake eyelashes, and parades in front of a huge crowd. Beauty pageants for kids are an atrocity and must be stopped. Little girls should be playing with their Barbies, not acting like them!

Should students be paid to come to school?

Attending school is synonymous to slavery! It is like serving a jail sentence. No one should be forced to endure such a horrible fate unless they get some sort of financial reward in return. It is therefore a necessity that students be paid to go to school.

Should teenagers be allowed to have a driver's license?

Injuries. Accidents. Deaths. This is what tends to happen when you hand the wheel over to teens. Teenagers are reckless and dangerous drivers. They should not be allowed to drive cars before they turn 18. The safety of the population is at stake.

Yellow: hook

Blue: position statement

Task 2: Is something wrong with these introductions?

Should cell phones be allowed at school?

I am against this. I will tell you why in the following paragraphs.

Yellow: hook

Blue: position statement

Should same-sex schools be mandatory for all Quebec students?

Quebec students drop out of school at an alarming rate! The cause is obvious: mixed-gender schools do not foster a proper educational environment for teens as it takes the focus away from their studies. Same-sex schools should be mandatory for everyone.

Should kids who fail pay for their tuition the following year?

I am against the fact that students should pay for school after they failed a year. My arguments will clearly convince you that my opinion is the right one.

Task 3: Writing your own introduction

Now, take position!

Choose a topic and write an introduction.

Topic A: Are video games a waste of one's time?

Topic B: Does technology (social media, cell phones, etc.) tend to isolate us?

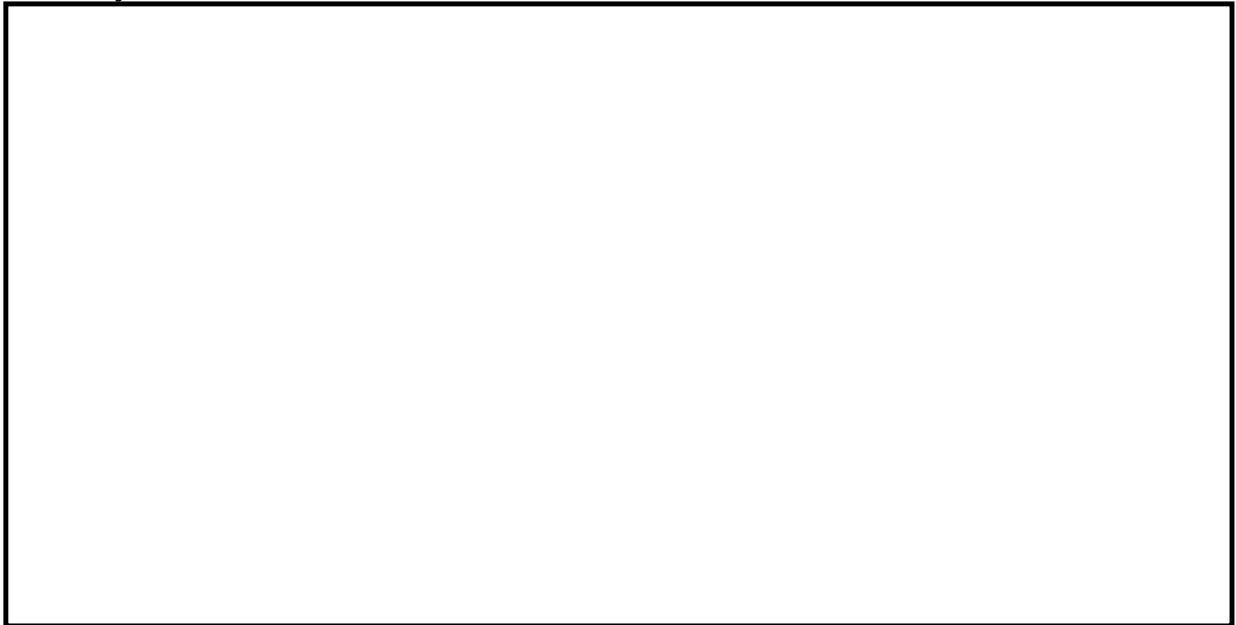
Topic C: Is it easy being a teenager today?

Yellow: hook

Blue: position statement



Write your introduction in the box below.



Now have another student
highlight your introduction.

Yellow: hook

Blue: position statement

Exchange copies with another student and highlight the hook in yellow and the position statement in blue.

You can add comments to improve the text

Examples:

- You should write a hook
- You should limit the use of "I"

Yellow: hook

Blue: position statement

Reflect on Learning: What have you learned from this lesson?

Share this information with a partner.