

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 7

#183 Essay Writing Tip – How to Write an Introduction?

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: Did you know the introduction of an essay is very important? It gives the first impression of your essay to the reader?

Qt 2: Do you know how to write an effective introduction?

Qt 3: How to make your introduction short and focused?

The answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises (Essay Writing Tip – Structuring an Assignment Essay) are as follows:

Qt 1: What are the three common elements which should be included in all different kinds of essays?

Ans to Qt 1: The common elements for all kinds of essays are thesis, argument based on evidence in support of the thesis and logical organization.

Qt 2: What are the six common kinds of essays you are asked to write?

Ans to Qt2: The common essay types include exposition, discussion, challenge, factorial, consequential and commentary essays.

Vocabulary

To help you understand the article easier, take a look at the following vocabulary items:

- context (n): the situation in which something happens
- glimpse (n): a short glance at something.
- alliteration (n): using repetition of the same consonant in a number of words to give a musical pattern in reading.
- rhetorical question (n): a statement made in the form of a question to which no answer is expected.
- novella (n): a short story

PART 2: Article for Reading

Read the following article posted on the BBC website to learn about ways to write an effective

introduction in essays:

How to write an introduction to an essay

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zv7fq3/articles/zfbf8xs>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Listen to the following short video clips posted on YouTube to learn more about this topic while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

How to Write a Research Paper Introduction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTC-5P1VFFU>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice the interesting use of the word “hook” in the article as follows:

An effective introduction hooks readers’ interest.

Because of its interesting shape, the word “hook” is used to describe some related ideas when it is used as a verb. Look at the following few examples:

(a) off the hook

Meaning: released from a difficult situation.

Example: The strict teacher always picks students’ mistakes. He never lets them off the hook easily.

(b) on the hook (for something)

Meaning: Required to pay for something which may not be your responsibility.

Example: The poor father is on the hook for paying the antique his son has broken at the shop.

(c) By hook or by crook

Meaning: by whatever means available.

Example: Once he has set his goal, he will set off to achieve it by hook or by crook.

Can you think of two other ways to use the word in this sense? Try to write down something and discuss with our SEE U teachers. Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Your SEE U teachers are always ready to give you feedback.