



2011 College Mini-Semester Brookhaven National Laboratory

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Mini-Semester Deliverables

- ▶ Short Essay: No more than 3 pages (Courier 12pt, double-spaced, <1.25" margins)
- ▶ Short Presentation: No more than 3 minutes, including PowerPoint setup and questions



Topic

- ▶ Explore a Relationship between Your Academic Interests and BNL's Research Interests
- ▶ The report and oral presentation should explore a relationship that includes (a) your own interests in science, (b) the Brookhaven National Laboratory research facilities related to your interests, and (c) a particular topic being explored at BNL or a BNL scientist conducting research related to your interests.



General Outline for Essay

▶ Introduction – Body – Conclusion

▶ Source used: Edward P.J. Corbett, *Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student*, Third Edition.



Introduction

- ▶ **Establish a context**
- ▶ **Inform the audience of the object of the essay**
- ▶ **Dispose the audience to be receptive**



Kinds of introductions

▶ Inquisitive

- ▶ To show that the subject is important, curious, or interesting

▶ Paradoxical

- ▶ To show that while the points to be established may seem improbable, they must after all be admitted

▶ Corrective

- ▶ To show that the subject has been neglected, misunderstood, or misrepresented

▶ Preparatory

- ▶ To explain an unusual mode of developing the subject; or to forestall some misconception about the essay's purpose; or to apologize for some deficiencies

▶ Narrative

- ▶ To rouse interest in a subject by adopting an anecdotal lead-in



Introductions

▶ Inquisitive

- ▶ To show that the subject is important, curious, or interesting

Does history repeat itself? In our Western world in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, this question used to be debated as an academic exercise. ... Does history give us any information about our own prospects? And, if it does, what is the burden of it? Does it spell out for an inexorable doom, which we can merely wait for with folded hands—resigning ourselves, as best we may, to a fate that we cannot avert or even modify by our own efforts? Or does it inform us, not of certainties, but of probabilities, or bare possibilities, in our own future?...

From *Civilization on Trial* by Arnold Toynbee.



Introductions

▶ Paradoxical

- ▶ To show that while the points to be established may seem improbable, they must after all be admitted

The most characteristic English play on the subject of physical love is Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*. It is characteristic because it has no love scenes. The English, as their drama represents them, are a nation endlessly communicating about love without ever enjoying it....

From *Curtains* by Kenneth Tynan.



Introductions

▶ Corrective

- ▶ To show that the subject has been neglected, misunderstood, or misrepresented

Most people who bother with the matter at all would admit that the English language is in a bad way, but it is generally assumed that we cannot by conscious action do anything about it. Our civilization is decadent and our language—so the argument runs—must inevitably share in the general collapse. It follows that any struggle against the abuse of language is a sentimental archaism, like preferring candles to electric light or hansom cabs to aeroplanes. Underneath this lies the half-conscious belief that language is a natural growth and not an instrument which we shape for our own purpose....

From “Politics and the English Language” by George Orwell



Introductions

▶ Preparatory

- ▶ To explain an unusual mode of developing the subject; or to forestall some misconception about the essay's purpose; or to apologize for some deficiencies

Beginnings are apt to be shadowy, and so it is with the beginnings of the great mother of life, the sea. Many people have debated how and when the earth got its ocean, and it is not surprising that their explanations do not always agree. For the plain and inescapable truth is that no one was there to see, and in the absence of eye-witness accounts there is bound to be a certain amount of disagreement. So if I tell here the story of how the young planet Earth acquired an ocean, it must be a story pieced together from many sources and containing many whole chapters the details of which we can only imagine....

From *The Sea Around Us* by Rachel L. Carlson



Introductions

▶ Narrative

- ▶ To rouse interest in a subject by adopting an anecdotal lead-in

A light flashed on the central switchboard of the New York Telephone Company office in Forest Avenue, West Brighton, S. I., a precisely 2:04 A.M., September 2, 1958. Mrs. Catherine B. Thompson, one of the operators on duty, plugged in on the line. She heard the sound of heavy breathing....

Such was the beginning of a drama that was to shock the nation.

From “He Never Had a Chance” by Fred J. Cook and Gene Gleason



Body

- ▶ **Supporting information**
 - ▶ Three examples (traditional in the infamous 5-paragraph essay)
 - ▶ One extended example



Conclusion

- ▶ **Ending, not merely stopping**
 - ▶ Recapitulate by summarizing or highlighting the views of the essay
 - ▶ Generalize by broadening and extending the view of the essay



Presentation

- ▶ **Template** (See www.mstegman.com)

- ▶ **Title Page**

- ▶ Your name
- ▶ Your School
- ▶ School logo, optional

- ▶ Upon display, use this page to introduce yourself to the group at the start of your presentation.

- ▶ **Presentation Slides**

- ▶ Outline your presentation using bulleted lists
- ▶ Include photos, diagrams, etc. as appropriate
- ▶ Do not simply read the list on your pages

