

## INTRODUCTION

The introduction to your research paper will consist of 3-5 paragraphs that should include background information, your thesis statement, background of the current issue with your topic, and the current status of the issue.

Paragraph One—**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Here you will write the facts about the issue. Be careful to avoid opinions, as that is what you will be arguing. It is also here that you will give the reader definitions and clarify terms and other data that may be unfamiliar to the reader. This could include stories, statistics, and/or your personal reasons for researching this particular topic.

Paragraph Two—**BACKGROUND OF THE ISSUE:** Here you will talk about the history of this issue, when did it start (if known), how did it start, any significant people involved, where (geography if relevant) did this originate? etc. A good, thorough history of the issue, using **ONLY FACTS**. For example, this could include historical laws passed, court orders, protests, business practices etc. for your topic.

Paragraph Three—**CURRENT STATUS OF THE ISSUE:** Where are things today with this issue? What is the current status of any laws/rules that may govern where this issue ends? What are the most recent statistics concerning your issue?

This is where you will also want to include the opposing viewpoint from your own thesis statement—in other words, the “enemy” to your thesis. This is where you will give, *with citations and documentation*, the opposing viewpoints. Be as unbiased as you can in your writing, you should not show “feelings” here or your own opinion. Save that for the thesis.

Paragraph Four—**THESIS STATEMENT**

You already have this done. This is where you may express your opinion, where you may show your *bias*. This is the *meat of your paper*.

You may want to use a web or an outline specific to your topic for these three paragraphs. There is a *web graphic organizer* on the W drive in the *12 Reg English Folder*.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion to your research paper will consist of 2-3 paragraphs that should include a summarizing statement(s), restatement of your thesis statement and the highlights of each essay's thesis, highlights of the best points of each essay, and a closing statement(s).

Paragraph One—**SUMMARIZING STATEMENT(S)**: In a sentence or two, summarize what your entire paper is about. Additionally include restatements of the main thesis of the paper and the sub-theses of the essays.

Paragraph Two/Three—**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BEST POINTS OF THE PAPER**: What do you feel were your strongest points made...restate them to remind the reader about what was good in your paper. Finish off with a closing statement that can be more than one sentence...preferably 2-3. Make sure you leave the reader with some sort of "call to action" about your topic.

You may want to use this space to create a web or an outline specific to your topic for these concluding paragraphs. There is a *web graphic organizer* on the W drive in the *12 Reg English Folder*.