

# Intros and Conclusions

NAME:

**Directions:** *Although experienced writers will rarely write each intro and conclusion in the same way, there are some basic expectations that everyone should consider. This sheet will help you to get all of the information that readers will expect into your essay.*

## Introduction

*The introduction should establish what you are going to be arguing and why you are bothering to argue it. Following this format should give you a solid way to achieve these goals.*

### HOOK

*First, you want to **hook** your readers. Use something dramatic that captures attention and makes readers want to know more.*

*Try a **quote**: “These violent delights have violent ends/ And in their triumph die, like fire and powder,/Which as they kiss consume” (II.vi.9-11)*

*Or a shocking piece of **news**: “On December 23, 2016 actress Carrie Fisher, best known for her role as Princess Leia, suffered a massive heart attack during a flight to LA. Four days later she was dead. The following day, Fisher’s mother, Debbie Reynolds also died. Her last words? ‘I want to be with Carrie.’”*

*Maybe a **statistic**: According to the American Psychological Association, suicide is the “third-leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24 [sic].”*

### CONTEXT

*Next, you need to provide some context for your essay. What is the book or play you are writing about? Let us know what we’re getting into.*

*For example:*

William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* is one of the most famous love stories of all time. Almost everyone has seen some version of this story of two star-crossed lovers who meet, fall in love, and kill themselves within a week. *West Side Story*? Romeo and Juliet singing and dancing as members of rival gangs on the streets of New York *Warm Bodies*? Romeo and Juliet as a normal girl and a romantic zombie. *Gnomeo and Juliet*? Amorous lawn gnomes. The story is in our DNA. Why?

## CLAIM

*You already wrote your theme. Feel free to adapt it to better fit your intro, as long as the meaning stays the same. Like this:*

Perhaps one reason that *Romeo and Juliet* still resonates so strongly after hundreds of years is simple: from the very first lines, the play shows in startling clarity the uncontrollable power of true love.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion is also pretty simple. Mostly you are just reminding us what we have learned from your paper and emphasizing why we should care. Try not to write “in conclusion”. If you do your job well and clearly summarize the previous information, we’ll all know it’s your conclusion.

Here’s your job.

1. Summarize your main points and arguments.
2. Restate your claim.
3. Leave us with one final thought. Perhaps an unanswered question, perhaps an extension to the rest of the world. Often, my final thoughts begin with something like “**if only...**” This sets off a bit of hypothetical musing. “**If only** the men on the ranch had spent more time getting to know each other, maybe Lennie would be alive today.” “**If only** Romeo had actually spoken to his parents about his secret marriage, perhaps the Prince wouldn’t have lost his brace of kinsmen.”

**Sample:** Although some may argue that violence and hatred rule *Romeo and Juliet*, it is clear that just the opposite is true: even in the most violent setting, love will conquer all, for it is a force beyond hatred. From the opening lines referring to the lovers as “star-cross’d” to the titanic force with which Romeo and Juliet fall for each other to the end in which both families finally bury their strife because of their children’s death it is clear: hate may win in the short run, but love will always come out on top. Of course, it would have been nice if our heroes didn’t have to die to prove this truth, but then it would not have been a very exciting play, would it?