

Name: _____ Date: _____ Per: _____

Writing an Introductory Paragraph in Four Parts

1.	Global Opening	This sets the context for the topic of your paper. No quotations, no questions, no definitions.	2-3 sentences
2.	Present the work	Give the author's full name and the full title of the work being analyzed.	1 sentence
3.	Summarize	Offer a brief summary of the work and give its purpose.	2-3 sentences
4.	Thesis	Give a clear, detailed roadmap of the focus of this paper in one sentence. In papers this short, any more than one sentence is not clear enough.	1 sentence only.

The result should be an introduction that flows from broad to narrow with clear connections from one sentence to the next.

Suggestion: Write these pieces in reverse. Start with your thesis and work backwards. This will ensure the other pieces all connect to your thesis.

Poor Example:

In Edwards's sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" he uses metaphors and diction to help people see the realities of hell. This was written in 1741, and it is much different than sermons today. Rhetoric is important for people to picture in their minds what hell and punishment is like. Jonathan Edwards is a Puritan preacher who was part of the Great Awakening in early America. He uses alliteration when he talked about "the fiery floods of the fierceness and wrath of God." All in all, this is an important sermon, and we should listen to it.

Better Example:

We Americans tend to avoid thinking about eternal punishment. Even the religious among us eschew thoughts of hell's torments for the much more pleasant view of heavenly rewards. However, there may be some value in considering eternal consequences of earthly decisions. Jonathan Edwards, the 18th-century Puritan preacher, saw great value in considering hell and divine wrath. In his sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," Edwards offers a powerful picture of hell in a way only a Puritan can. This work is a passionate and graphic depiction of a sinner's relationship to God. Unlike modern sermons' feel-good tone, "Sinners" is filled with a "feel-bad" tone. According to Edwards, sinners are rebels, enemies, and objects of God's wrath. Unless we find help in a Mediator, we are destined to "drop down into hell." Edwards's pleading tone for lost souls along with his multifaceted use of metaphors describing God all work together to present his clear view of eternal damnation in order to convert sinners to Christ.

Thesis: Edwards's pleading tone for lost souls along with his multifaceted use of metaphors to describe God all work together to present his view of eternal damnation in order to convert sinners to Christ.

Summary: "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" is Jonathan Edwards' passionate and sometimes graphic depiction of a sinner's relationship to God. Unlike modern sermons' feel-good tone, "Sinners" is filled with a "feel-bad" tone. According to Edwards, sinners are rebels, enemies, and objects of God's wrath. Unless we find help in a Mediator, we are destined to "drop down into hell."

Present the work: In his sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," Jonathan Edwards offers a powerful picture of hell in a way only a Puritan can.

Global Opening: We Americans tend to avoid thinking about eternal punishment. Even the religious among us eschew thoughts of hell's torments for the most more pleasant view of heavenly rewards. However, there may be some value in considering eternal consequences of earthly decisions. Jonathan Edwards, the 18th century Puritan, saw great value in considering hell and divine wrath.