

Introductory Paragraph

Your introduction should:

- Begin creatively in order to catch your reader's interest
- Include the author and title of the work
- Have a thesis statement

It may:

- Provide background on the literary work
- Have a brief summary
- Include setting and an introduction of main characters

Creative Opening/Hook: the beginning sentences of the introduction that catch the reader's interest. Ways of beginning creatively include the following:

- A startling fact or bit of information
- A snatch of dialogue between two characters
- A meaningful quotation (from the book you are analyzing or another source)
- A rich, vivid description of the setting
- A brief anecdote
- A question
- A thought provoking statement

Summary Template:

(Somebody) wants... and so... but... in the end...

Stating the Important Idea Templates:

I used to think... But now I believe...

Some people think... But I believe...

When I first read... I thought... But now as I reread it, I realize...

Samples

Which is more valuable---financial success or kindness? The play *A Christmas Carol*, adapted by Israel Horowitz from Charles Dickens' novel, answers this question. It tells the story of Scrooge, a greedy, grumpy old man. In the play, Scrooge is visited by three ghosts who change him from being a cold-hearted miser into a kind, generous person. *A Christmas Carol* illustrates that financial success cannot buy happiness, but kindness can.

Many people spend their entire lives searching for the key to a meaningful life. In *A Christmas Carol*, written by Charles Dickens and adapted by Israel Horowitz, a greedy old miser named Scrooge endures such a search for meaning and ultimately finds the treasure of life. He needs the help of three spirits, who appear during the night on Christmas Eve, to help him see how his inconsiderate and greedy actions affect others and leave him alone. As a result of this experience, he changes from his selfish ways and allows himself to branch out, becoming more friendly, generous, and content in the process. *A Christmas Carol* illustrates that people can be happy without money or success, as pure happiness originates from thoughtfulness and generosity.