

# Introductory Essay Paragraphs:

Hook, line, and sinker by Andrew Keiler  
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# Before we get started...

Please add your name and program in the chat window for credit. Also, feel free to answer any questions in the chat or if you have comments put them in there as we go along. I'll try to monitor the chat window and respond as soon as I can.

I really appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to join us tonight.

Let's have some fun and learn to write better essays!!!

Have you ever been fishing?

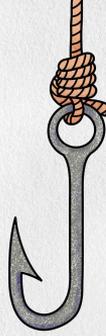
# Introductory paragraphs in essay writing

It can be really hard to start writing an essay. You stare at the blank page and have no idea how to begin. You might know some of the things that you want to say, but how do you say them—and in what order?

This method that takes its name from a fishing metaphor is easy to remember and even easier to use.

A hook, line, and sinker is all you need to catch a fish... and it's all you need to start an essay too!

# Hook



Your hook is an interesting beginning to catch your audience's attention. It can be:

- A humorous or surprising statement
- A quotation
- An interesting fact
- An anecdote
- A word picture
- An example
- A question

Make a draft of possible hooks from the possibilities on the left. Choose the best idea with an appropriate tone.



# Essay hook video

<https://edpuzzle.com/media/63cf1e0263317c413e3000e8>

Watch the video and answer the questions whenever the video stops in the chat.

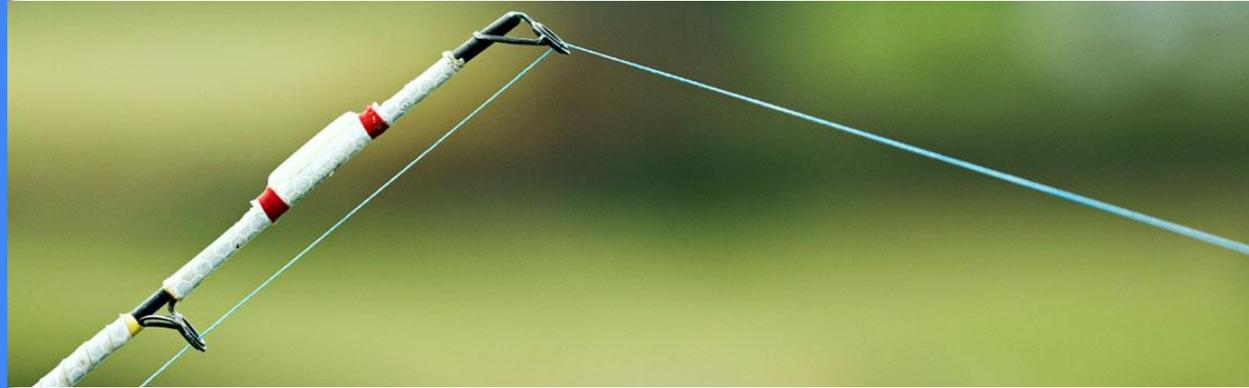
# Line

Use the line to answer the following questions:

Why is my topic important?

Why is what I'm writing interesting?

Draft a line that explains why the reader should care about your topic.



# Sinker

Your sinker is your thesis statement. This is a brief, but specific, description of what you will say and how you will say it.

It is often the last sentence of the introductory paragraph. Your sinker should contain your claim and at least three reasons to support your claim. This provides the organizational structure of your essay.



# Put your hook, line, and sinker together

Add transitions so that your introductory paragraph reads smoothly and makes sense.

Think about your purpose, audience, and organization before drafting an introductory paragraph

Hook: Grab attention

Line: Explain why it's important

Sinker: Present your thesis statement

# GED Essay Practice Question

As a part of the GED Reasoning Through Language Arts test, there is a 45-minute extended response question. For this question, two articles are presented that discuss a topic and take opposing positions. You are required to write an essay arguing that one of the positions is better-supported than the other.

Analyze the arguments that are presented in each of these articles. In your response, develop an argument in which you explain how one position is better-supported than the other. Incorporate relevant evidence from both articles to support your argument. Remember, the better-argued position is not necessarily the position with which you agree. This essay should take 45 minutes to complete.

We are going to read both passages and write the introductory paragraph of an essay based on the prompt above.

Here is the link to the essay practice question and articles:  
<https://gedpracticetest.net/ged-essay-practice-question/>  
Download the articles attached in the chat.

**Please Recycle!** *by Alexandra Alesi*

Recycling is an important tool for protecting our global environment. The threat of major climate change looms on the horizon and continues to grow. We must take every action necessary to reduce the release of harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Recycling isn't enough on its own, but its contributions are substantial. It reduces dangerous emissions in many significant ways: it conserves natural resources, it prevents pollution, it saves energy, and it preserves the environment for future generations.

**The Recycling Racket** *by Jenni Sadler*

Recycling is often held up as a simple, common sense step the average person can take towards saving the world; this is a foolish presumption. Recycling's benefits do not outweigh its costs, and it is ultimately just a way for people to feel better about themselves, a method which, in many ways, is self-defeating.

Let's briefly  
discuss the  
evidence...

# Based on the evidence...

Let's write an introductory paragraph about the article Please Recycle! by Alexandra Alesi

Start with the hook. Remember that your hook can be a humorous or surprising statement, a quotation, an interesting fact, an anecdote, a word picture, an example, or a question

Some examples are:

**A word picture:** Its nickname, the eighth continent, says it all, and is no exaggeration. Lying between California and Hawaii, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is three times the size of France and is the world's biggest ocean waste repository, with 1.8 billion pieces of floating plastic which kill thousands of marine animals each year.

**A quotation:** "Listen up, you couch potatoes: each recycled beer can save enough electricity to run a television for three hours."

**A question:** Have you ever seen the movie Wall-e?

**An anecdote:** While most couples offer over-the-top fish or steak dinners at wedding receptions, a newlywed couple had a unique, more sustainable idea for their celebratory meal. English couple Zoe Chambers and Charles Loughlin turned to a charity that turns discarded food scraps into meals for people at risk, to cater their wedding.

## Next comes the line...

Why is this essay interesting and important?

Draft a line that explains the topic of this essay.

An example of a line for an essay about recycling:

Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and remanufacturing them into new products. The more we recycle, the less garbage winds up in our landfills and incineration plants.

And finally—the  
sinker

Your sinker  
should contain  
your claim and at  
least three  
reasons to  
support your  
claim.

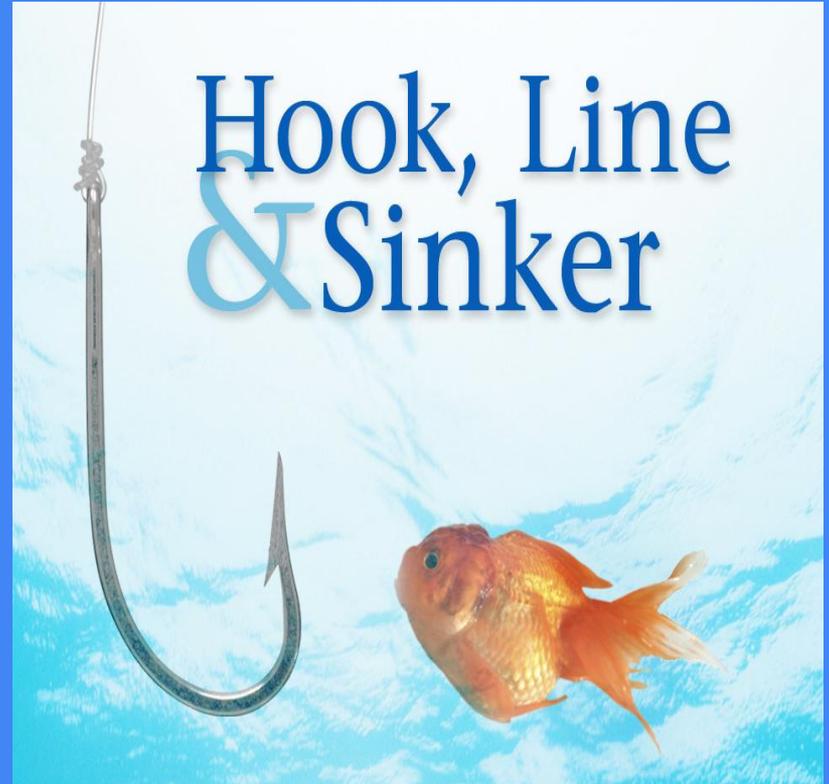
An example of a sinker for the recycling  
essay:

The article “Please Recycle!” by Alexandra Alesi contains the better-supported position regarding recycling. The evidence used by the author proves the argument that recycling can help protect the environment from the threat of climate change, reduces the release of harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, conserves natural resources, prevents pollution, and even saves energy.

# Now put the three together and

You have a hook, line, and  
sinker.

Which also equals an  
introductory paragraph for your  
essay



# Here's how it reads...

“Its nickname, the eighth continent, says it all, and is no exaggeration. Lying between California and Hawaii, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is three times the size of France and is the world's biggest ocean waste repository, with 1.8 billion pieces of floating plastic which kill thousands of marine animals each year” ([www.iberdrola.com](http://www.iberdrola.com)). Recycling could eliminate environmental disasters such as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and remanufacturing them into new products. The more we recycle, the less garbage winds up in our landfills and incineration plants. If there is any debate about recycling, then the article “Please Recycle!” by Alexandra Alesi contains the better-supported position regarding recycling. The evidence used by the author proves the argument that recycling can help protect the environment from the threat of climate change, reduces the release of harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, conserves natural resources, prevents pollution, and even saves energy.

Please feel free to share your  
hook, line, and sinker in the chat.

# Thanks!

If you would like to finish this essay, please email your drafts to [akeiler@rbusd.org](mailto:akeiler@rbusd.org).

Also, if you need help with any of your writing in the future, please don't hesitate to email me or stop by my GED classroom in the Tech Lab.

In addition, be on the lookout for future workshops on essay writing!

