

## Notes on Crafting a Successful Introduction & Conclusion

Taken from *A Writer's Reference*, Sixth Edition, by Diana Hacker

### Crafting a Successful Introduction

- A central claim.
- Establish your purpose for writing.
- Conclude with your main point. (The main point is your central claim/central claim).
- A hook should grab the reader's attention, perhaps with one of the following:
  - a startling statistic, an unusual fact, or a vivid example
  - a paradoxical statement
  - a quotation or a bit of dialogue
  - a question
  - an analogy
  - an anecdote

(14-17)

Also in your introduction, you want to establish your credibility by showing them that you are knowledgeable and fair-minded. "If possible, build common ground with readers who may not be in initial agreement with your views and show them why they need to consider your central claim."  
(69)

### How do you plan to revise your introduction?

### Crafting a Successful Conclusion

- "A conclusion should remind readers of the essay's main idea without dully repeating it. Often the concluding paragraph can be relatively short. By the end of the essay, readers should already understand your main point; your conclusion simply drives it home and, perhaps leaves the readers with something larger to consider.
- In addition to echoing your main idea, a conclusion might briefly summarize the essay's key points, propose a course of action, discuss the topic's wider significance, offer advice, or pose a question for future study."
- "To make the conclusion memorable, you might include a detail, an example, or an image from the introduction to bring readers full circle; a quotation or a bit of dialogue; an anecdote; or a humorous or ironic comment. ... an effective conclusion is decisive and unapologetic. Avoid introducing wholly new ideas at the end of an essay."

(17-18)

### How do you plan to revise your conclusion?