

2.1



HOW TO WRITE AN INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH

The introduction paragraph acts as a roadmap for your essay. When an IELTS examiner reads the introduction to a essay, they should ***already know exactly what the rest of the essay will look like.***

Please review the four sentences that appear in an argument essay's introduction paragraph:

- Background sentence
- Detailed background sentence
- Thesis
- Outline

To illustrate these sentences in action, this same essay question will be used:

Technology is becoming increasingly prevalent in the world today. In the not too distant future, technology will completely replace the teacher in the classroom. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

The background sentence simply says something general about the topic given in the essay question. Typically, this sentence will use the keywords mentioned in the question. For example:

The use of technology is increasing rapidly in the modern world.

Here, we have written a general sentence about one of the main keywords of our essay question: technology. The second sentence in our introduction paragraph is a more detailed background statement. So in this sentence, the student would include some information about the growing presence of technology in the classroom. For instance:

Growing technological influence can even be seen in the classroom.

Now that we've finished our background sentences, it is time for us to compose a comprehensive thesis. As you recall, the thesis is the most important sentence in your entire essay because it **answers the essay question directly**. But how do we decide whether to support or refute the idea of technology replacing the teacher in the classroom? Remembering that our ultimate goal on the IELTS is to maximize our band score, the student should use logical reasoning to decide which position (support or refute) is easiest to write. Choosing the easier essay position also helps curb the possibility of mistakes in grammar and coherence.

In the case of our essay question, we are being asked **if we agree or disagree that technology will someday take the place of a teacher in the classroom**. Let's think about this question for a second:

What will this mean?

...students will learn entirely from computers

Is this likely?

...probably not

Why not?

...because a robotic teacher would not be able to discipline misbehaving students

...because a robotic teacher would be unable to cater to a student's learning needs

...because a robotic teacher would not be capable of encouraging students as well as a human

...because a robotic teacher's classroom would be boring and would hinder learning

Is it easier to agree with this statement or disagree?

...disagree!

Now that the student has decided on a direction for the essay, they can confidently write a fitting thesis:

It is disagreed that technology will completely replace the teacher in the classroom.

Following this declaration of position, the student needs to state what points they will use in support. This is done in the fourth and final sentence in the introduction paragraph: *the outline sentence*.

Students are advised to use two points to support their thesis. Using more than two may lead the student to rush their writing, which will cause grammatical errors. Using only one point will be considered insufficient evidence. Each point is discussed separately in supporting paragraphs.

Let's choose two points from our brainstorm session that we can find real examples for later on:

- a robotic teacher would be unable to cater to a student's learning needs
- a technology-driven teacher would have difficulty encouraging students

Now, we simply group these points into an outline sentence that declares a progression for the essay:

Analyzing the inability of a technology-driven teacher to both cater to student learning needs and instill motivation will show this.

Congratulations! You have written your first introduction paragraph. Here it is in its entirety:

The use of technology is increasing rapidly in the modern world. Growing technological influence can even be seen in the classroom. Despite this, it is disagreed that technology will completely replace the classroom teacher in the foreseeable future. Analyzing the inability of a technology-driven teacher to both cater to student learning needs and instill motivation will show this.

As you can see, anyone looking at your introduction paragraph knows exactly what you will talk about in the rest of the essay. The introduction paragraph introduces your topic (via your background sentences), presents your argument (as a thesis) and declares the supporting ideas you will use to prove your argument (stated in your outline sentence). To an examiner, an introduction like this clearly defines the student's position and plan for progression through the rest of the essay.