English 80

9/23 LAB

Writing effective introduction paragraphs:

Your introduction paragraph should:

1. Begin with a hook and make your reader want to keep reading
2. Provide background information about your topic
   1. This can include an introduction to some of the key authors and works you will discuss
3. Set up the thesis
4. End with a clear three-part thesis statement
5. Avoid clichés or overused introduction styles

Please choose one of the following prompts to compose a practice introduction paragraph:

1. What are the most important character traits for a best friend?
2. What is the definition of family?
3. Should college be tuition free for all American citizens?
4. Should voting day be a national holiday?
5. Should there be laws against advertising unhealthy foods (like fast food or sugary cereals) to children?
6. What is the best sport to watch or play?

When you finish composing your paragraph, exchange papers with a partner and review their introduction to make sure it contains all of the requirements for a good thesis statement. After you have reviewed each other’s papers, have a discussion in which you suggest how your partner could make his/her introduction even better. Once you have an idea of how you could write an even better introduction, rewrite it to make the necessary changes.