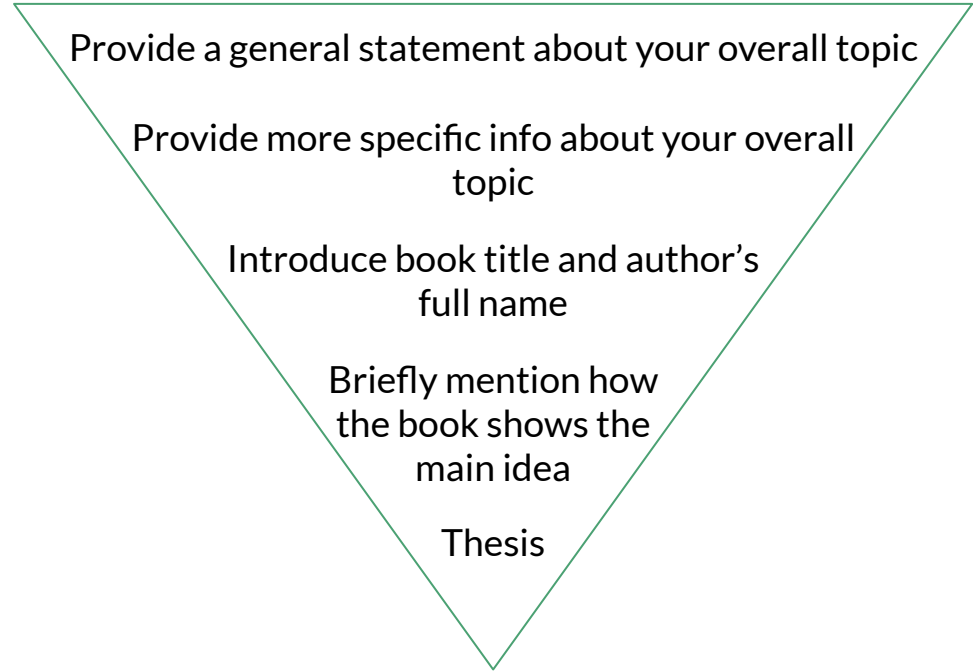


Introduction & Conclusion Paragraphs

Bringing shapes into the writing process because why not

Introduction Paragraph

Think of your intro as an upside-down triangle...



Introduction Paragraph

Example:

Thesis: Through the evolution of the character Marcellus, Shakespeare demonstrates in *Hamlet* that it is sometimes easier divert blame to someone else than it is for an individual to accept that he or she was misguided.

Introduction Paragraph

Example:

The capacity to be honest with oneself is considered a virtue that morally upright individuals should possess. However, there can be quite a difference between what people *should* be able to do and what they *actually* do. This difference is especially apparent when a person has to accept that he or she had a lapse in judgement and behaved foolishly. Rather than take responsibility for the misstep, many would prefer to redirect the blame for their actions onto others. The tendency to avoid taking responsibility for one's actions is featured heavily in William Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*; throughout the piece, many characters struggle to come to terms with their own senselessness when they are faced with it. Like people outside of the literary world, the characters would prefer to be seen as collectively guilty rather than individually at fault. Through the evolution of the character Marcellus, Shakespeare demonstrates in *Hamlet* that it is sometimes easier divert blame to someone else than it is for an individual to accept that he or she was misguided.

General Statement

More Specific Info

Title & Author

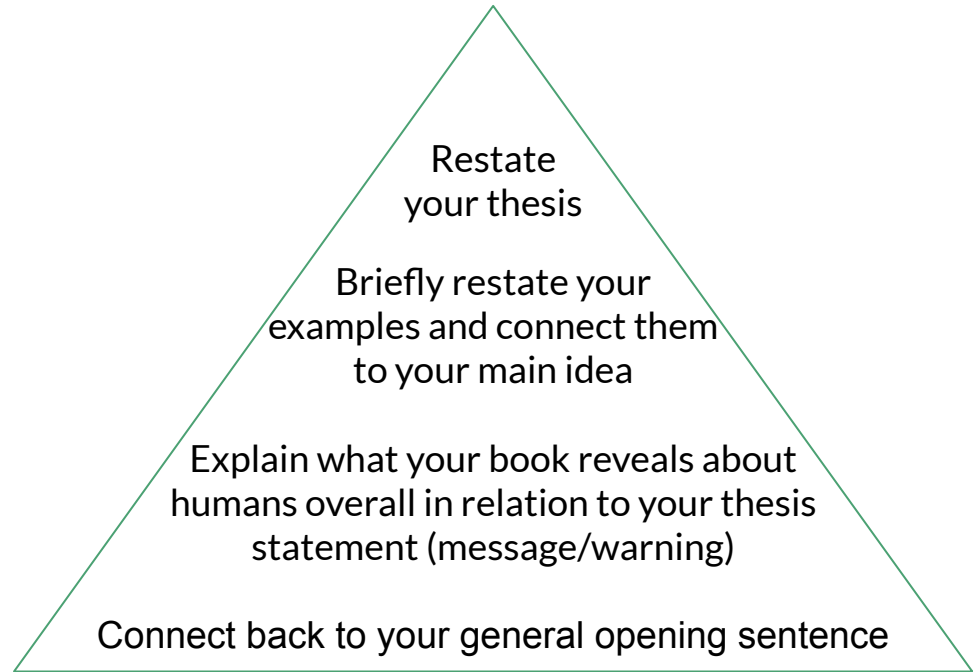
Book & Main Idea

Thesis

Conclusion Paragraph

Think of your conclusion as a right-side-up triangle...

(Basically, the exact opposite of the introduction's structure)



Conclusion Paragraph

Example:

Thesis: Through the evolution of the character Marcellus, Shakespeare demonstrates in *Hamlet* that it is sometimes easier divert blame to someone else than it is for an individual to accept that he or she was misguided.

Opening Sentence: The capacity to be honest with oneself is considered a virtue that morally upright individuals should possess.

Conclusion Paragraph

The idea that it is more comfortable for an individual to assign guilt to others than to accept one's own errors is demonstrated through the development of the character Marcellus in William Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*. Marcellus consistently responds poorly to the situations he finds himself in, but rather than take responsibility for the effect of his behavior, he diverts the blame to either another character or the group as a whole. It is easier for Marcellus to hold others liable for the events that occur in the play than for Marcellus to accept that he alone bears the blame. Shakespeare uses Marcellus to illustrate to the audience that when a truth is uncomfortable, we tend not to accept it; we refuse to see that we need to adjust our own behavior and instead find it preferable to point fingers at others. As Shakespeare reveals, people's tendency to deceive themselves for their own comfort and peace of mind makes them appear foolish to those around them - perhaps even more foolish than they appear when they err in the first place. An individual can be seen as prudent only when he or she does not blind him or herself to reality. **Honesty is a virtue, after all, and that includes being honest with oneself.**

Restate Thesis

Restate/Connect Examples

Humanity + Thesis Statement

Opener