

# Essay Practice: The Introduction

## Part A: The Hook

The hook refers to the first couple of sentences of the essay. It is designed to capture the attention of the audience.

For each of the following topics, create a hook (you can make up reasonable information) using one of the following methods:

- Question
- Statistic
- Personal story/anecdote
- interesting background information
- famous quote/lyric

1) Are sports celebrities making too much money?

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2) Should classes be split according to gender? (All boy classes, all girl classes)

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3) Should students in elementary school be pushed through even if they actually fail?

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## Part B: The Bridging Sentence

The bridging sentence helps to connect your hook to your thesis. It starts to persuade your audience and reveal the nature of your topic and opinion. For each of the following hooks and thesis statements, fill in supporting details that make sense and connect the two.

### 1) Topic: Should the driving age be reduced?

**hook**

Throughout our great country, over 35% of accidents are caused by people under the age of 20.

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**bridge**

**thesis**

The driving age should not be reduced because young people are too impulsive, inexperienced, and immature.

### 2) Topic: Is our society too obsessed with money and spending?

**hook**

In Jessie J's top charting song, "Price Tag", she complains "Why is everybody so obsessed? Money can't buy us happiness. Can we all slow down and enjoy right now. Guarantee we'll be feeling alright".

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**bridge**

**thesis**

Clearly society has become obsessed with money based on our need to constantly have the newest thing, name-brand products and increasing credit card debt.

# Essay Practice: The Body

For the following thesis and information provided, fill in the blanks appropriately for ONE of the arguments, using either information from the boxes below or from your own ideas. You will then write out the paragraph.

Thesis: Dogs are the best pets because they are loyal, useful, and obedient.

## Loyal

- My dog always meets me at the door
- The dog that sits beside the owner's grave
- My dog defends me if threatened
- 2/4 people say dogs are the most loyal

## Useful

- 26% of people use their dogs for hunting
- Walking for exercise and or safety
- They can be guard dogs
- Entertain children

## Obedient

- My friend doesn't need a leash to walk her dog
- Television dogs need to me well trained
- Border Collies, Labrador Retrievers, and German Shepherds are know for being trainable and obedient

Transition word: \_\_\_\_\_,

State:

Prove (with quote):

Explain:

Transition word: \_\_\_\_\_,  
State:

Prove (with quote):

Explain:

Transition word: \_\_\_\_\_,  
State:

Prove (with quote):

Explain:

# Evaluating an Essay

Below you will find an opinion essay. Read the essay and answer the questions that follow.

The author is expressing their opinion based on the following prompt:

*Is technology making teenagers less social?*

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Smith 1

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## Teens and Technology

Some teens are socially awkward and non-social in general. Could technology be adding on to this? In my opinion, the use of technology is making teens less social. As a result of teens being less social because of technology their phone skills are weak, they are convinced texting is more convenient, also they miss out on important time with their family and friends.

First off, teens are now lacking in social skills, and one of the reasons for this is technology. Verbally communicating with other people requires social skills while texting does not. Teens in general are non-social and socially awkward with talking because they are used to texting. 50% of adults stated teens are very awkward talking in person to them, but over text it almost seems natural for them. They mean by this, that teens seem a lot more comfortable with texting, although aren't as comfortable with speaking to someone because they are not used to it.

Secondly, texting is more convenient for teens, which is why more teens prefer it. 19/20 teens prefer texting rather than talking face to face with someone. In this study 99% of teens preferred texting over talking. Teens found texting more convenient because they all agreed, that talking to people face to face wasn't as interesting, meaning they found it got awkward since they are used to being able to think about what they are going to say over text. They even stated they felt like they didn't know to speak verbally to someone.

Lastly, one of the disadvantages of teens being less social and more occupied with technology is that they miss out on important time with their families. From my personal experience, with family and friends, we really do not talk anymore when we are together, since everyone is on their phones. Phones and technology take away, time a person could be spending with their families. I am personally guilty of this and can now see that their phones are making us less social.

In conclusion, the use of technology contributes to making teens less social. The ability to hide behind cell phones and computer screens, and not having to see or speak to anyone proves this. In order to be social, teens need to be physically present speaking with other people, including family. Through texting and social media it is not necessary to use face to face conversation. The fact that texting is more convenient because teens are also always on their phone proves that teens are losing their social skills.

### Questions (please answer on a separate piece of paper)

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1) What do you notice about the organization of this essay? (You can list in point form)

The first paragraph:

- 2) Does the author agree or disagree with the question *Is technology making teenagers less social?*
- 3) What point is the essay trying to prove? (The main argument)
- 4) What are the three reasons the author uses to support their main argument?

The second paragraph:

- 5) Does the author do a good job Answering, Proving, and Explaining their point? Why or why not.
- 6) What evidence does the author use as their proof as to why teens are or are not less social?

The third paragraph:

- 7) Does the author do a good job Answering, Proving, and Explaining their point? Why or why not.
- 8) What evidence does the author use as their proof as to why teens are or are not less social?

The fourth paragraph:

- 9) Does the author do a good job Answering, Proving, and Explaining their point? Why or why not.
- 10) What evidence does the author use as their proof as to why teens are or are not less social?

The fifth paragraph:

- 11) What do you think is the purpose of this paragraph?