

## THE ARC TIP SHEET FOR WRITING INTRO'S AND CONCLUSIONS

**Have you ever said: “I hate writing intros!” or “I never know what to say in a conclusion!”? Then this is for you!**

### WRITING AN INTRO

Typically, an intro begins with a broad idea and then narrows down to your thesis. Think of it as “inching” toward your thesis.

broad idea  
narrowing in of your idea  
mention title and author  
general ideas you will present  
thesis statement

Generally, follow this format for an intro (you may have slightly fewer or slightly more sentences):

Sentence 1: an attention-grabber (such as a quote or a bold statement) or a broad idea

Sentence 2: a follow-up sentence that relates to sentence 1.

Sentence 3: reference to the book/characters

Sentence 4: a sentence that touches on the general ideas of your paper

Sentence 5: (and possibly sentence 6 if your thesis is 2 sentences): thesis statement

#### **Sample intro:\***

Money, fear, anger. . . these are all reasons people act impulsively (*sentence 1*). Nothing, however, makes people behave impulsively as often as love (*sentence 2*). *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare is a tragic love story about two teenagers who died because of their forbidden relationship and their impulsive behavior (*sentence 3*). Romeo and Juliet get married the day after they meet and continue to make one thoughtless decision after another, completely disregarding the consequences that could result (*sentence 4*). Because their love is so passionate, Romeo and Juliet behave impulsively; however, this impulsive behavior ends up being less a celebration of their love and more a cause for destruction (*sentence 5*).

### WRITING A CONCLUSION

Generally, follow this format for a conclusion (you may have slightly fewer or slightly more sentences):

Sentences 1-3: Using different words, restate your thesis and a summary of your points—Avoid a list and avoid simply *repeating* what you have already said.

Sentence 3-4: What is the meaning/significance of your main points? What do all your ideas “add up to”?

Sentence 5: What the lasting message or lesson? What is something to consider going forward? Create a “zinger” as a closing line.

#### **sample conclusion:\***

Love is a very powerful thing, and people will do almost anything in the name of love. Often times, love clouds people’s judgement, and they act in ways they think are appropriate but in reality are not at all rational (*sentences 1-2*). Both Romeo and Juliet made impulsive decisions when they got married the day after they met, and when Juliet drank the potion from the Friar to make her look dead (*sentence 3*). In both cases, neither of them stopped to think of potential problems that could arise as a result (*sentence 4*). Love is a wonderful thing, as long as people don’t lose their heads when they give someone their heart (*sentence 5*).

*\*with help from Natalie M.*