

## Dramatic Introductions

A dramatic introduction has some special features:

- It has action.
- It happens *on one day*.
- It has two paragraphs.

► The first paragraph tells a *very short story* about what happened during one day.

► The second paragraph explains how the story is connected to your topic. The last sentence is usually your *thesis statement*.

### *Example*

**Essay topic:** Traveling by train is better than by plane.

#### Explanation

#### Essay

<p><i>The essay starts with a story.</i></p> <p><i>The story has action.</i></p>	<p>Dan nervously flipped through a magazine as he waited for the other passengers to get into their seats. Soon, a very large man sat down in the seat next to him. His shoulders were so wide that they pushed Dan's elbow off the arm rest. The take-off and first 20 minutes were smooth. Dan lowered the tray in front of him and set his lunch and coffee on it. Suddenly, the passenger in front of him decided to push her seat back, shoving Dan's tray into him, spilling coffee all over him. For the rest of the two-hour flight, he tried not to think about how miserable he felt in his tiny seat and wet shirt.</p>
<p><i>The second paragraph shows connection to topic. Last sentence is thesis statement.</i></p>	<p>Most people, at some time, need to travel a long distance for business or pleasure. Unfortunately, many of them consider traveling only by plane and forget that going by train is an option. <u>In fact, going somewhere by train is much better than by plane.</u></p>

**Exercise 1:** Two of the introductions below are good dramatic introductions. The others are not good dramatic introductions. Describe the good or weak points of each introduction on the line below it. Use the **descriptions** in this box:

Introduction Descriptions	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good dramatic introduction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good dramatic introduction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weak: There is little action.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weak: There is no story in the introduction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weak: It does not happen during one day.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weak: There is a story but not two paragraphs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weak: The second paragraph continues the story.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weak: The first paragraph is a story but the first sentence does not start the story.

**Topic: All families should have pets.**

1) A famous person once said, “A dog is the only thing in the world that will love you more than you love yourself.” Most people would agree that this world needs more love, and pets, not just dogs, are able to provide that. In fact, a dog can have an interesting effect on a family.

“Introduction Description” from the box above: Weak: There is no story in the introduction.

2) One day, 9-year-old Timmy got a puppy. That morning, he took the puppy, named Rex, to the back yard and tried to train him. Pushing Rex’s rear, Timmy told him to sit. After Rex sat, he gave him a treat. Next, he wanted to teach him to chase a ball. However, every time Timmy threw the ball, Rex grabbed it and ran away from Timmy. Soon, Timmy gave up and went inside to play video games.

Pets require a lot of attention and patience. Unfortunately, today many children, like Timmy, lack both. By giving children the responsibility for training a pet, parents can help them learn some important lessons for life. In fact, there are steps that a child can follow in order to train a dog.

“Introduction Description” from the box above: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Cats are often difficult to train. One evening, I decided to try a new technique. About an hour before going to bed, I started to play with her. I got her to chase a ball of string. Also, I put a big paper bag on the floor, which she loved to play inside of. After an hour, we were both tired and slept through the night.

Other pet owners could probably learn from my experience with my cat. It is clear that pet owners have to use their own brains when training pets. This is just one reason why it is important for families to have pets.

“Introduction Description” from the box above: \_\_\_\_\_

4) One day, Ann bought a dog. That night, something bad happened, and the dog saved Ann's life. She was glad that she had a dog to protect her.

There are a number of good points about owning a dog. Anyone who is interested in getting a dog may want to follow this process in order to find one that have the appropriate characteristics.

“Introduction Description” from the box above: \_\_\_\_\_

5) It was about 2 a.m. All the family members were sleeping upstairs in their beds. Suddenly, their dog, Winnie, came upstairs and started barking, but nobody woke up. Next, he went inside the parents' bedroom and jumped up on the bed. The father got up, and Winnie ran to the hallway. Following Winnie, the father noticed smoke coming from downstairs.

The father went down the steps and saw a fire had started in the living room. He ran upstairs, got his wife and children, and everyone ran outside. Winnie had saved their lives. This is one reason why it's important for all families to own a pet.

“Introduction Description” from the box above: \_\_\_\_\_

6) When Sara returned home from school, she started to feed her goldfish, as she always did. However, today she noticed that one of the fish was floating on its side on top of the water. She called her mother, who explained to Sara that the fish had died. After removing the fish and burying it in the backyard, the family had a long talk about the cycle of life.

“Introduction Description” from the box above: \_\_\_\_\_

7) This morning, George got up and ate his breakfast alone, just as he has done for the past years since his wife died. After breakfast, he put a leash on his dog, Callie, and walked her to the park. As they were walking, a young woman on the sidewalk stopped and asked if she could pet Callie. They had a short, pleasant conversation about the dog. When they reached the park, another dog ran up to Callie, and that dog's owner soon arrived. While the two dogs played together, George and the other owner had an interesting discussion about the news of that day.

Pets can be advantageous for their owners. In George's case, his dog, Callie, helped him meet new people. In fact, pet dogs provide a variety of physical, social and emotional benefits.

“Introduction Description” from the box above: \_\_\_\_\_

8) Hong recently moved into a new neighborhood. Although it seemed nice, she was a little worried because she lived alone, so she bought a dog. After a week, she started to feel secure in her new home, but one night she heard someone trying to open her back door. Her dog, Rusty, started to bark near the door, and soon the person left. The next morning, Hong noticed some police cars in front of her neighbor's house. She found out that someone had broken into that house, tied up the owners and robbed them!

Most people know that a dog can provide some protection against crime. However, there are limitations about a dog's ability to help. In order to make a home truly secure, there are several steps that a home-owner can take.

"Introduction Description" from the box above: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 2

- 1) Choose *two* of the topics from the box below.
- 2) Write a *two-paragraph dramatic introduction* for each.
- 3) Underline the *thesis statement*.
- 4) Do not write the complete essay. Write *only* the introduction.

### Topic Choices

#### Explain . . .

- how an older person can look younger.
- how to convince a policeman not to give us a ticket.
- how to make new friends at school.
- the effects that social media have on young people.
- what causes a family to have close relationships.
- what causes video games to be so popular.
- which is better: living alone or with a roommate.
- whether high school students should wear uniforms.
- whether spanking is the best way to discipline a child.