

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pd: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Civil Disobedience Research Paper Introduction Strategies**

For many writers (me included!), the hardest part of an essay is writing the introduction. Let's practice a few strategies for writing a strong opening to your research paper.

### **Strategy 1: Start with a strong or controversial claim.**

Grab your reader's attention by opening with a strong claim related to your topic. This claim should be one that sounds surprising when your reader first sees it, but that you'll prove true by the end of the essay.

- Ex. "Riots are dangerous, destructive, illegal, and, occasionally, the duty of a responsible citizen." (The Storming of the Bastille or The Stonewall Riots)

Now write a strong claim that could open your essay: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Strategy 2: Start with a vivid description of a dramatic moment from your topic.**

Throw your reader into the action by vividly describing the most exciting moment you discovered in your research.

- Ex. "Tank treads growled over the ancient cobblestones, looking to crush the dreams of thousands of students, hoping only for a freer world. As the cameras rolled, one man stepped forward, refusing to be intimidated. He faced down 10 tons of steel and weaponry, while the world looked on." (Tank Man in Tiananmen Square)

Now write a vivid description that could open your essay: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Strategy 3: Start with a broad statement that shows the relevance of your topic.**

Your topic might have taken place a long time ago or somewhere far away, so appeal to your reader’s emotions with a broad statement that captures the relevance of your topic.

- Ex. “Everyone knows the pain of a broken promise. Even a slight deception can hurt. But during the First World War, millions of Americans risked it all, sacrificing their youth, their bodies, and their lives for a promise: that if they defended their country, their country would take care of them. This was a promise the US Government broke, when it refused to pay over a million veterans their promised bonuses.” (The Bonus Army)

Now write a broad, emotional appeal that could open your essay: \_\_\_\_\_

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Once you’ve written your opening, you can be creative in how to structure your intro paragraph. All you definitely need to do is:

- 1) explain the concept of civil disobedience and**
- 2) give a brief summary of your topic.**

**AVOID THESE COMMON MISTAKES!**

1. **DEFINITELY DO NOT** open your essay with a question.
2. **DEFINITELY DO NOT** open your essay with a dictionary definition.
3. **PROBABLY DO NOT** open your essay with a quotation:
  - a. A **relevant** quote can be okay as long as you:
    - Introduce it appropriately (NO ISLAND QUOTES!)
    - Explain how it relates to your topic!