

Workshop for Introduction & Conclusion

Writer _____ Peer Editor _____

Instructions to the Peer Editor: If your instructor gives you 30 minutes or more for this exercise, read a classmate's paper all the way through. If your instructor can only allow you 15 minutes or so, only read the first and the last full page. Then respond to the following questions.

Instructions to the writer: you have been given the response of one reader. Consider his/her critique carefully and use at your discretion. Hand in this sheet with your final draft.

Introduction:

Note Lynn Q. Troyka's good advice:

"Be careful not to tack on a sloppy introduction at the last minute. It plays too important a role to be tossed off with merely a few shallow lines. While many writers prefer to write only a thesis statement as an introduction in an early draft, they always return to write a complete introductory paragraph after the body—the main part—of the writing is finished. For a list of specific strategies to use—and pitfalls to avoid for introductory paragraphs—see Box 22" (Simon & Schuster *Handbook for Writers* 75).

1. Does the writer use any of the following strategies from Troyka's Box 22, leading **smoothly** into the thesis statement? Indicate with a check mark.

- Provides relevant background information
- Relates briefly an interesting story or anecdote
- Gives one or more pertinent—perhaps surprising—statistics
- Asks one or more provocative questions
- Uses an appropriate quotation
- Defines a key term
- Presents one or more brief examples

2. Does the introduction avoid the following pitfalls?

- Making purpose statements, such as "I am going to discuss the causes of falling oil prices."
- Apologizing, as in "I am not sure this is right, but this is my opinion."
- Using overworked expressions such as "Haste makes waste, as I recently discovered."

Conclusion:

Yes No Does the concluding paragraph end the discussion smoothly by following logically from the essay's thesis and from the body paragraphs?

Yes No Does the beginning coordinate logically and smoothly with the introduction?

Advice for the writer: avoid merely repeating the thesis statement verbatim in your conclusion. Remember to leave your reader with an insight.