

Arguments Are Motivated by Problems

Arguments are motivated by problems or questions. Your reader will be confused and not sufficiently understand why you are making a claim if you do not logically set up the problem or question to which you are responding.

***For Paper 2, your question should arise out of the conversation that your two essays are having with one another. This conversation and question should also connect to the thematic common ground of the two texts. (Consider important themes that the two texts share: English as a global language, westernization, cultural differences, consumerism, language and perception, etc.)**

In other words, the thematic common ground (or grounds for comparison) between the two essays highlight a problem or issue that causes you to ask a question to gain greater understanding. That greater understanding will then serve as your claim.

Below are some guidelines to help you form an effective question/problem for part 2 of your introduction for Paper 2. The thematic common ground for each question is in **bold**.

An effective problem/question for Paper 2 will not...

1. lead to an obvious, factual response, easily found in the text(s)
 - a. Ineffective: *Why are students learning English in India and Afghanistan?*
 - b. Better: *Are there more advantages or disadvantages to the **globalization of English** around the world?*

2. lead to a yes/no or one-word response
 - a. Ineffective: *Does learning English eliminate cultural diversity?*
 - b. Better: *To what extent does **English as a global language** endanger **cultural diversity**?*

3. lead to a response focused only on one text (since your argument should engage both essays)
 - a. Ineffective: *In what ways are Afghans' **identities** affected by learning a new **language and culture** in India?*
 - b. Better: *Considering the impact of language on individual and cultural **identity**, what does it teach us about the dynamic nature of **globalization**?*

4. require you to do outside research in order to respond.
 - a. Ineffective: *How has Western culture colonized Eastern parts of the world throughout history?*
 - b. Better: *In what ways can **English serve as a bridge between cultures** rather than as a **colonizing** force?*

REMINDER: Your question should have a clear thematic focus that you wish to explore more deeply to come to a larger understanding or conclusion. What are the two essays teaching you about this theme and how/why? The answer to your question will be your claim. You must be able to prove your claim via analysis of evidence from the 2 essays. (No outside research!)