

Expository Writing



**Learning to Write from
Beginning to End**

What is Expository Writing?

A type of writing, the purpose of which is to explain.

EXPOSITORY = EXPLAIN



You **INFORM** and tell
WHY

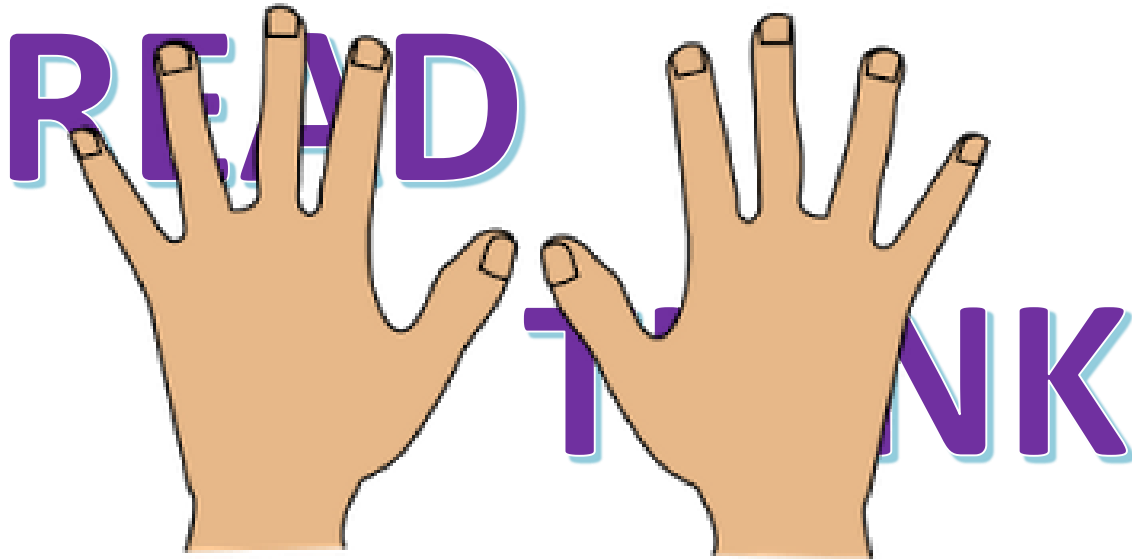
Expository Writing Prompt

READ

THINK

WRITE

Expository Writing Prompt



WRITE

Example Prompt - Expository

Read the information in the box below.

Edward Everett Hale said, “I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something.” And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.”

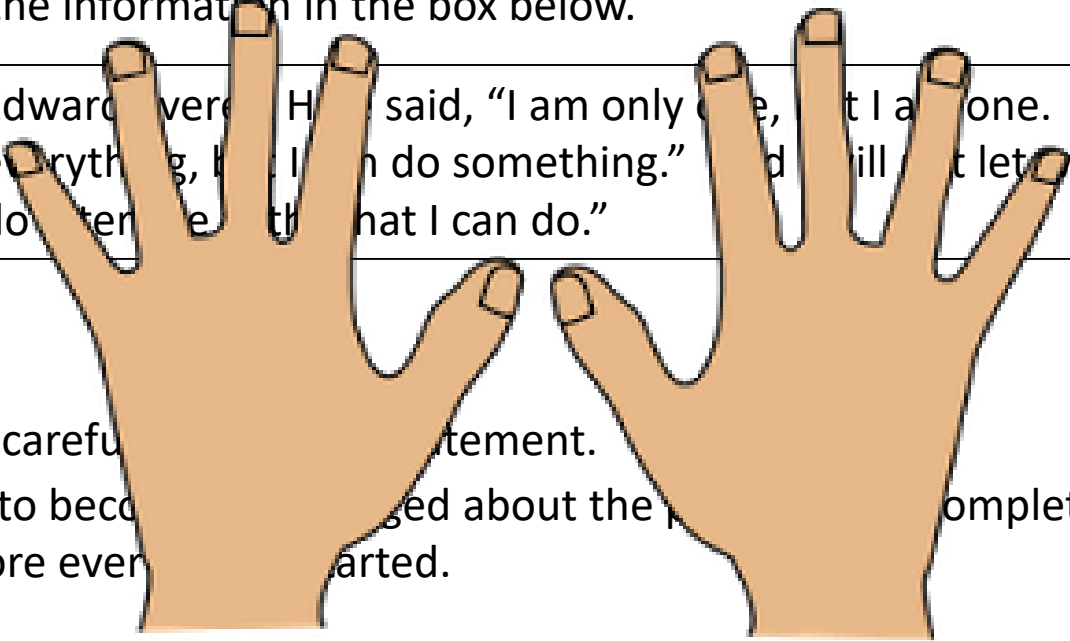
Think carefully about this statement.

It is easy to become discouraged about the possibility of completing a task and to give up on it before ever getting started.

Write an essay about the importance of taking action.

Example Prompt - Expository

Read the information in the box below.



Edward never. He said, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something." And he will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."

Think carefully about the statement.

It is easy to become discouraged about the possibility of completing a task and to give up on it before even starting.

Write an essay about the importance of taking action.

What is the prompt asking you to do?

Deciding what to write: **Brainstorming**

Just like you must think about the ingredients you will use to cook up a delicious dinner, you must spend some time thinking about what you should write before you begin writing.

One way to brainstorm your ideas is using a

Donut Map



In the box around the donut, you will write **EXAMPLES** that support your reasons.

In the outer circle you will write the **REASONS** to explain the subject.

In the center circle you will write the **SUBJECT** from the prompt.

Deciding what to write: **Brainstorming**

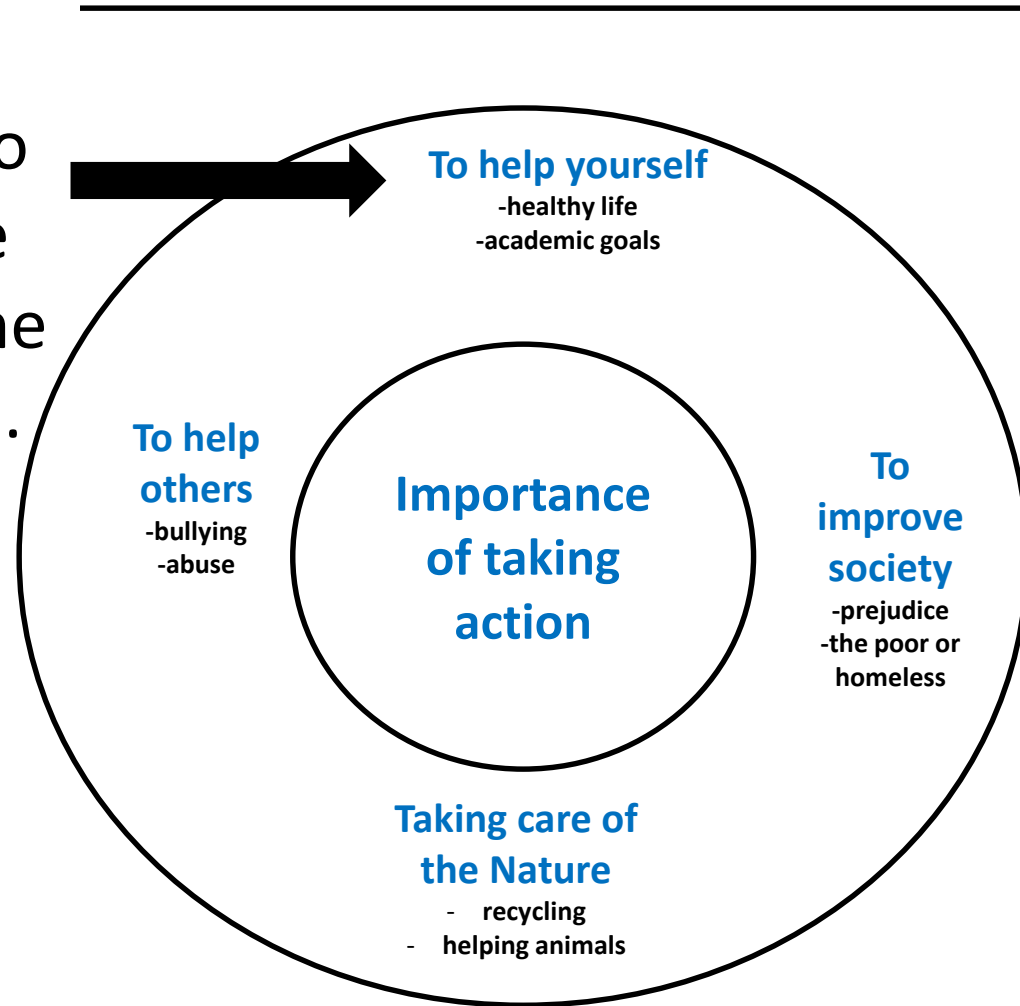
First put the
SUBJECT of
the prompt in
the center
circle.



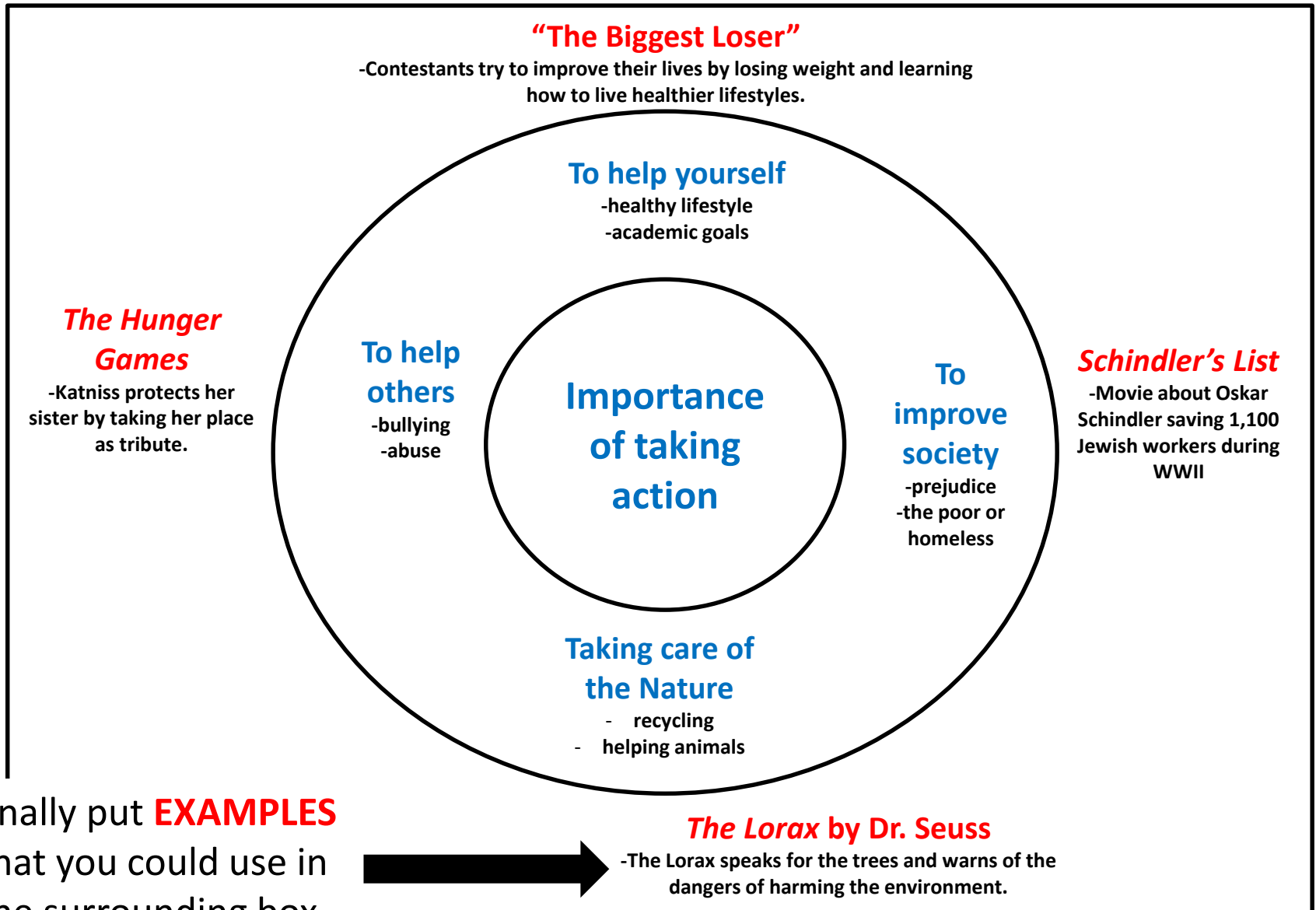
**Importance
of taking
action**

Deciding what to write: Brainstorming

Then put
REASONS to
explain the
subject in the
outer circle.

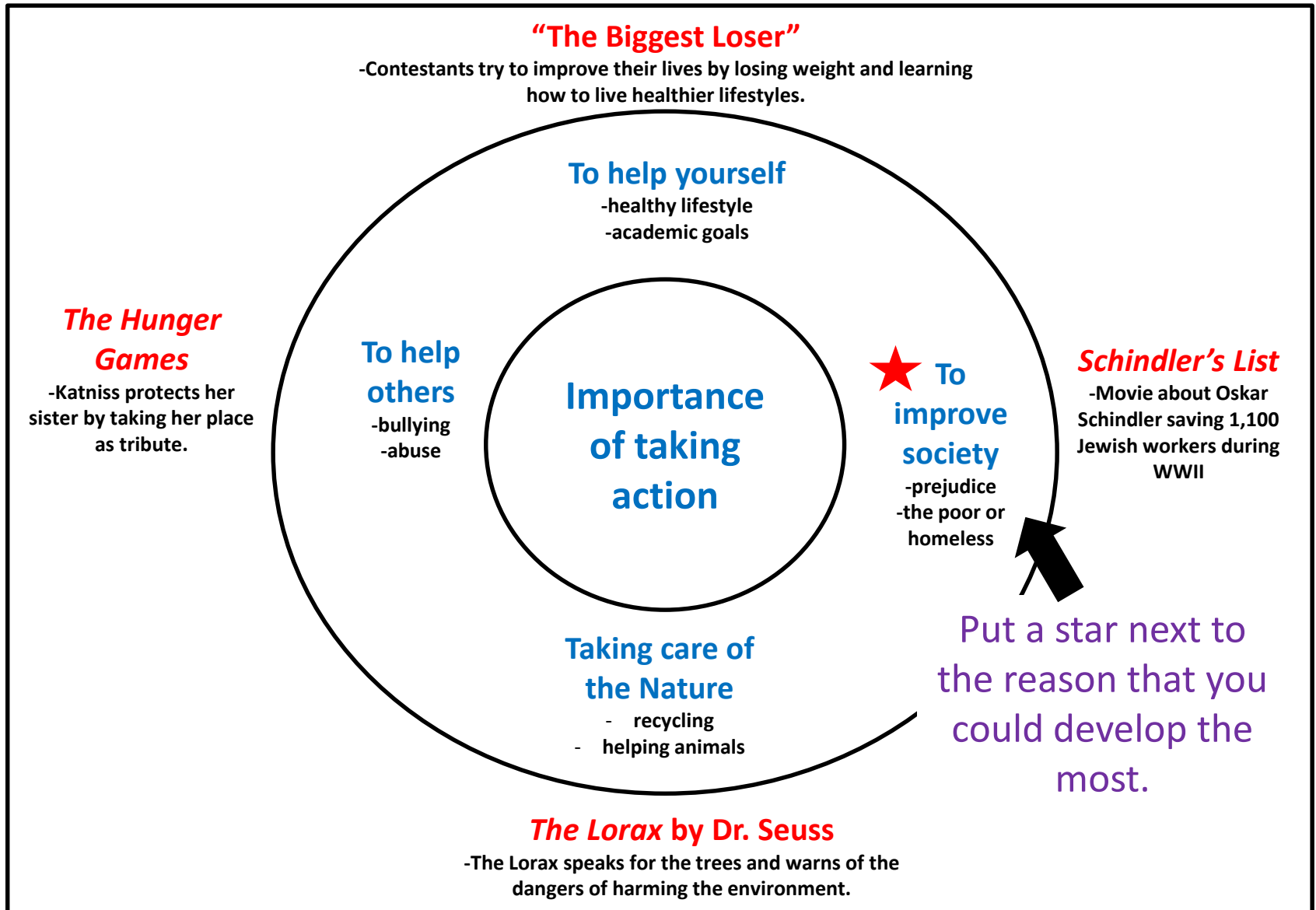


Deciding what to write: Brainstorming



Finally put **EXAMPLES** that you could use in the surrounding box.

Deciding what to write: Brainstorming



Deciding what to write: **Brainstorming**

COLORED PAPER PROMPT ACTIVITY 1

Everyone will now receive a prompt on colored paper.

You will use this prompt often to practice the steps of writing an expository essay.

Your first step is to **BRAINSTORM** ideas.

Read the prompt and complete a donut map.



In the box around the donut, you will write **EXAMPLES** that support your reasons.

In the outer circle you will write the **REASONS** to explain the subject.

In the center circle you will write the **SUBJECT** from the prompt.

Begin at the Beginning: **The Introduction**



A good introduction should clearly state what your paper is about.

The most important ingredient for a complete introduction is a

clear, focused

THESIS STATEMENT

Begin at the Beginning: The Introduction

Staying focused on your topic is often difficult.

One way to make sure that you stay on topic is by writing a strong **thesis statement**.

A **thesis statement** is just a fancy way of saying your answer to the prompt.

FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS

A strong thesis statement:

- 1) Begins with the **SUBJECT** from the prompt.
- 2) Gives **REASONS** to explain the subject.



Let's look at how we can cook up a good **thesis** with all the required ingredients...

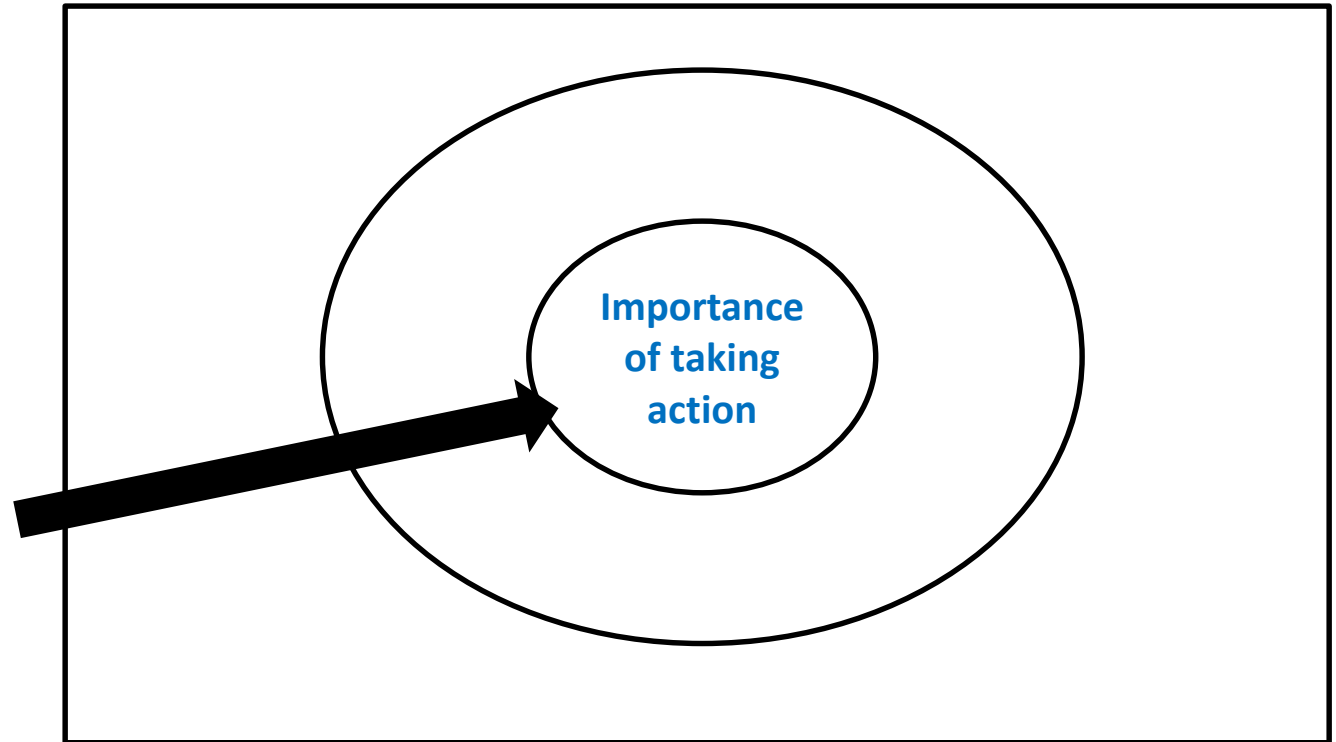
Begin at the Beginning: The Introduction

The first ingredient for a strong **thesis statement** is the **subject** of the prompt.



Remember our brainstorming... 

The middle of the donut is where you find the beginning of your **thesis**.



It is important to take action + REASONS

Begin at the Beginning: The Introduction

The second ingredient for a for a strong **thesis statement** is one or two **reasons** to explain that subject.

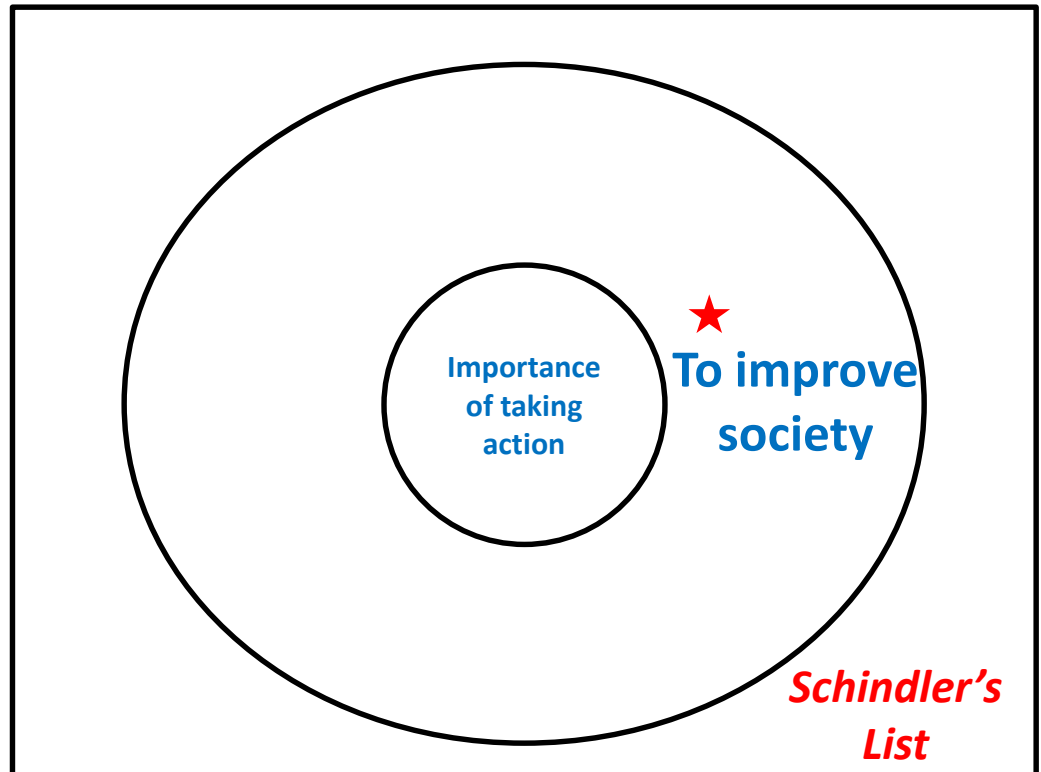


Ask yourself **WHY** after writing the subject.

It is important
to take action.

WHY???

Include 2 reasons



Begin at the Beginning: **The Introduction**

When you put your **SUBJECT** and **REASONS** together, you have a complete **THESIS STATEMENT**.

It is important to take action because the actions of just one person can impact and inspire those around them.

A good thesis statement not only tells your reader exactly what to expect in your essay, it also helps you to stay on topic and guides you through the rest of the paper.



Now we are really cooking...

Begin at the Beginning: The Introduction

Let's practice by rewriting weak thesis statements, starting with the subject of the prompt AND stating reasons to explain that subject.

Prompt: Write an essay about the bond between people and animals.

Weak Thesis: I love my dog for many reasons.



Rewrite: _____

Now you will rewrite the rest of the weak thesis statements on your activity called FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS

Begin at the Beginning: The Introduction

COLOR PROMPT ACTIVITY 2

- 1) Get out your colored paper prompt.
- 2) On your paper, write a **THESIS STATEMENT** that begins with the **SUBJECT** of the prompt and includes the **REASONS** you will use to explain that subject.
- 3) Exchange with a partner
- 4) Read your partner's thesis statement.
- 5) Try to guess what your partner's prompt asked based on their thesis statement.

If your partner guessed correctly, your thesis must have been clear!

Begin at the Beginning: **The Introduction**

You must also get your reader's attention right from the start.

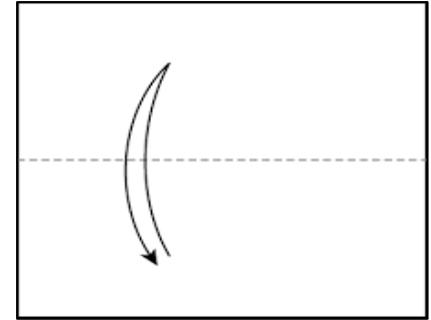
This is called a HOOK



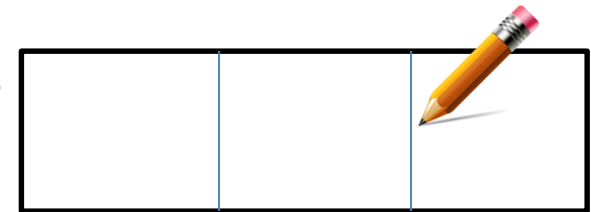
This is like your reader's first bite.
You want it to catch their attention and
leave them wanting more.

Begin at the Beginning: **The Introduction**

1) Fold your paper in half horizontally (like a hotdog)



2) Draw three lines on your paper dividing it up into 3 sections.

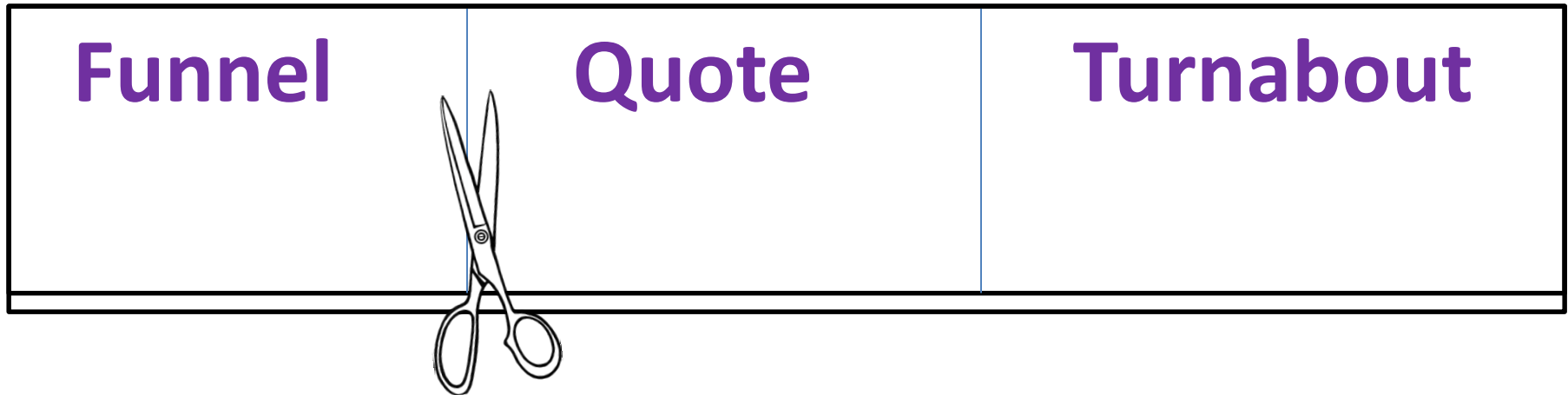


3) Title each section just like below:

Funnel	Quote	Turnabout
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Begin at the Beginning: **The Introduction**

4) Now cut along the lines you made (only on the top) to make flaps



5) Take notes as we go through the next few slides.
Open the flap for each hook.

Write the definition and example of each hook on the inside flap.

This will be a great tool to use whenever you are writing an essay in class.

Begin at the Beginning: **The Introduction**

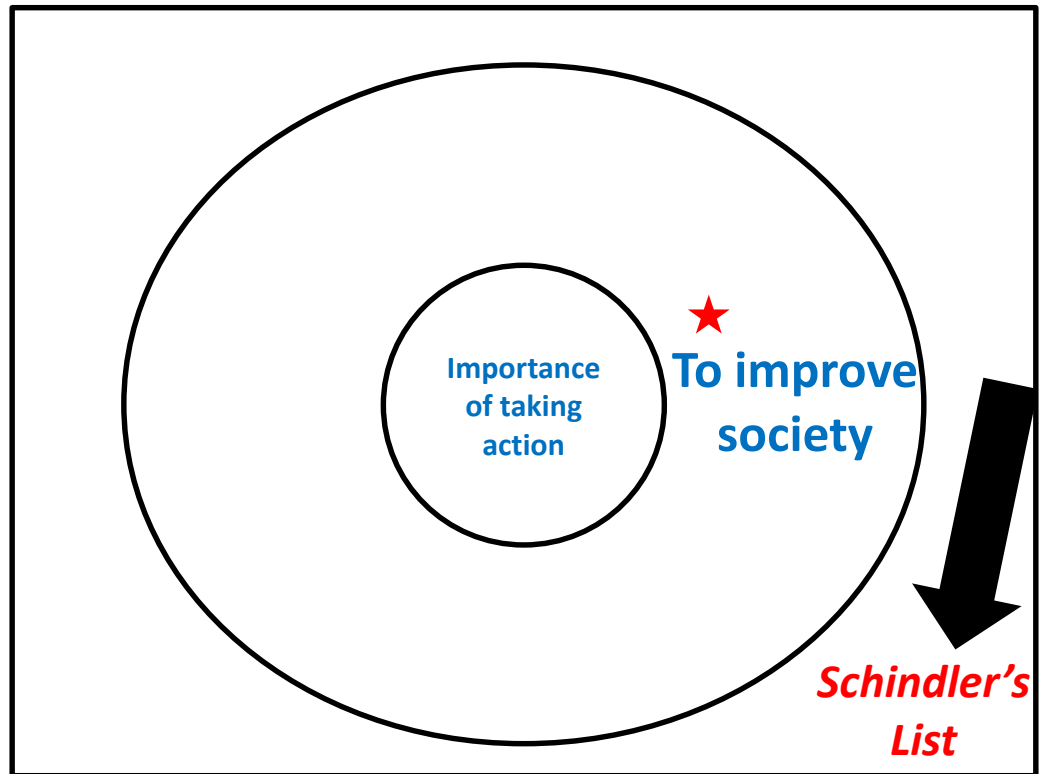
The hook should be connected to the **EXAMPLE** you intend to use in your essay.

INTRODUCTION:

Hook - Open with your **EXAMPLE.**

Transition to your thesis.

Close with your **THESIS.**



Begin at the Beginning: The Introduction



Types of Hooks: **Funnel**

The **FUNNEL** reveals background information about your **EXAMPLE**.

Six million Jewish people died in the Holocaust, but 1,100 did not because one man protected them.

When few others cared or dared to defy the Nazis, Oskar Schindler took action. As shown in the movie, *Schindler's List*, it is important to take action because the actions of just one person can impact and inspire those around them.

Begin at the Beginning: The Introduction

Types of Hooks: Quote

Use a **QUOTE** from or related to your **EXAMPLE** to begin the essay.

In the movie, Schindler's List, Oskar Schindler says, "Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire."

He understood that it is important to take action because the actions of just one person can impact and inspire those around them.



Where are some sources for quotes to use?

Begin at the Beginning: The Introduction

Types of Hooks: Turnabout

The **TURNABOUT** starts with the opposite idea and then moves to the **thesis**.

During the Holocaust many people stood by and did nothing to help the Jewish people. However, one man named Oskar Schindler did act. He proved that it is important to take action because the actions of just one person can impact and inspire those around them.



Begin at the Beginning: The Introduction

COLOR PROMPT ACTIVITY 3

Using the same colored paper prompt as before, complete the following:

- 1) Write a **FUNNEL hook** and combine it with the **thesis statement** you previously wrote.
- 2) Now write a **QUOTATION hook** and combine it with the **thesis statement** you previously wrote.
- 3) Now write a **TURNABOUT hook** and combine it with the **thesis statement** you previously wrote.

When you finish you will have written 3 introductions that I can grade.

Take your time and be creative!

The Meat of the Paper: **Writing the Body Paragraphs**

Remember when we learned how to write short answers.

We compared it to building a hamburger starting with a bun (the **ANSWER**), adding meat (**EVIDENCE**), and finally filling (**EXPLANATION**).



A body paragraph for an expository essay is very similar to this.

We are going to start with only one body paragraph and eventually build to two body paragraphs.



The Meat of the Paper: Writing the Body Paragraphs

Term	Definition
<p>Topic Sentence (TS)</p>	<p>A topic sentence is the first sentence in a body paragraph. This sentence is like a mini-thesis statement. It tells your reader what the paragraph will be about.</p>
<p>Concrete Detail (CD)</p>	<p>Concrete details are specific examples, facts, descriptions, or details that support, prove, or illustrate your topic sentence and thesis statement.</p> <p>Concrete details can be found in books you have read, movies you have watched, things that have happened in history, famous people, or things that have happened in the news.</p>
<p>Commentary (CM)</p>	<p>Commentary is how you connect the concrete detail with your topic sentence.</p> <p>It is like asking yourself so what?</p> <p>When you write commentary, you are explaining why you chose that specific CD. How did it support your topic sentence? How does it relate to the thesis of the essay?</p>

The Meat of the Paper: Writing the Body Paragraphs

Let's look at the thesis statement we wrote about taking action.

It is important to take action because the actions of just one person can impact and inspire those around them.

Your topic sentences should break the thesis statement into pieces – one for each reason.

**Body
Paragraph #1**

For now let's focus on the first reason.

Ask yourself, HOW?

How can taking actions **impact others?**

**Those who take actions to help others
are often seen as heroes.**

The Meat of the Paper: Writing the Body Paragraphs

Only complete the top box.



Now it's your turn!

COLOR PROMPT

ACTIVITY 4

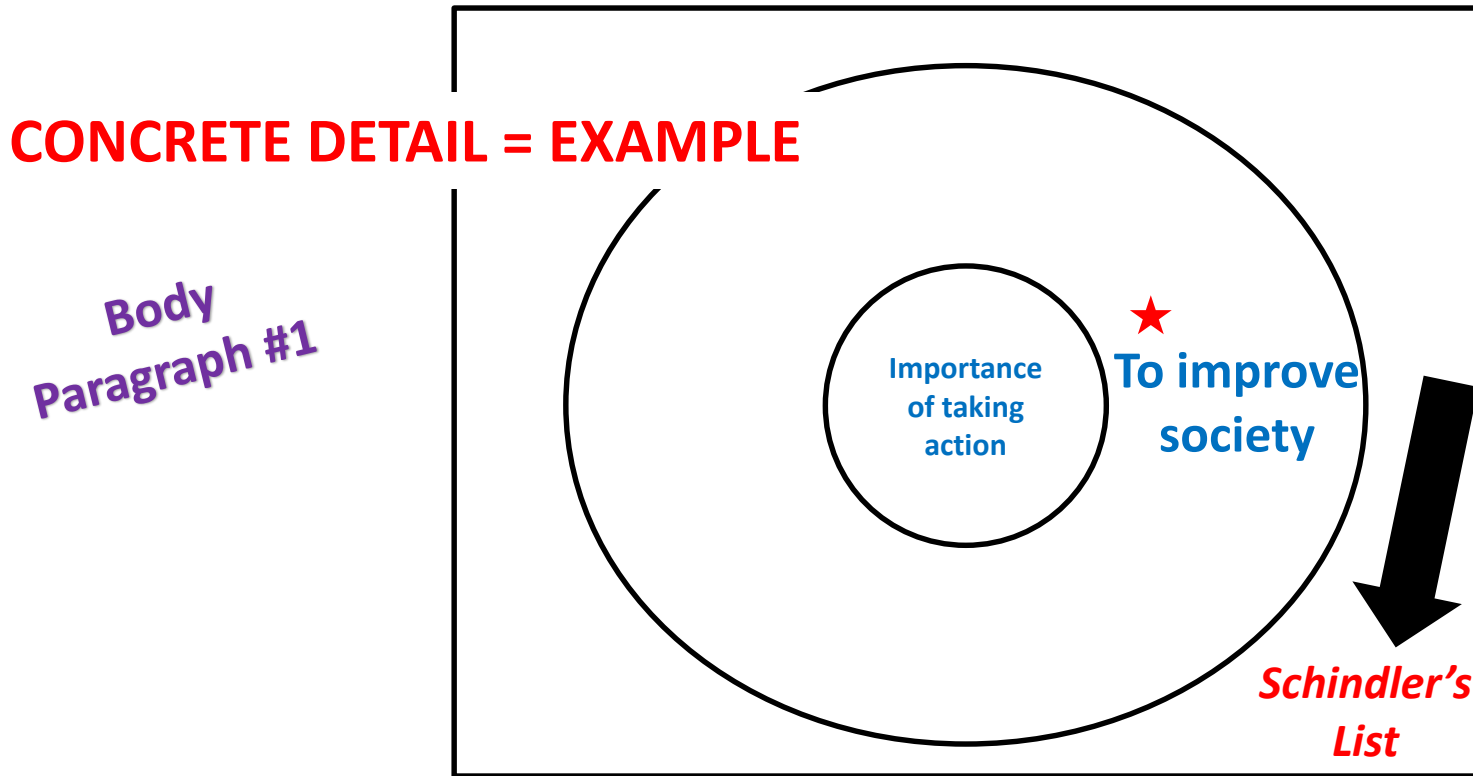
Complete the top box of the graphic organizer. Write a topic sentence for the prompt you have been working on.

Topic Sentence

Choose one of the reasons from your thesis statement to focus on.

The Meat of the Paper: Writing the Body Paragraphs

The next ingredient in a body paragraph is the
CONCRETE DETAIL.



Ask yourself, what happens in the movie that **supports** my **topic sentence**? Then write a few sentences about the example.

The Meat of the Paper: Writing the Body Paragraphs

Think about your topic sentence.

Those who take actions to help others are often seen as heroes.

What happens in the movie, *Schindler's List*, that supports this topic sentence?

For example, when Oskar Schindler, a Nazi businessman became outraged by the violence he saw against his Jewish workers, he did not think he could do anything to change the situation. He knew that trying to save them could endanger his own life, but he had an idea. He began to bribe the Nazis to keep his workers safe. One bribe led to another, and pretty soon his factory became a safe haven for as many workers as he could manage. By the end of the war, he had given away all of his money and risked his life many times, but he had also saved so many people.

**Body
Paragraph #1**

The Meat of the Paper: Writing the Body Paragraphs

Now it's your turn!

COLOR PROMPT

ACTIVITY 4

Complete the middle box of the graphic organizer. Develop your **concrete detail**.

Write several sentences about your **example** that support the topic sentence you wrote.

Only complete the middle box.



Concrete Detail

Use the **example** you chose on your donut map. Include **details and facts** that will **support/prove** your **topic sentence**.

The Meat of the Paper: Writing the Body Paragraphs

To complete your body paragraph, you must **EXPLAIN** your evidence, just as you did in the short answer responses.

This is called COMMENTARY.

Think about why the **evidence** you chose proves your **topic sentence and thesis statement**.

Oskar Schindler's actions proved that being courageous in the face of danger is worth it. He is a hero because of the lives he saved, and his name will live on as someone who wasn't afraid to take action when others did not.

**Body
Paragraph #1**

The Meat of the Paper: Writing the Body Paragraphs

Here is what the first body paragraph would look like for this essay.

Those who take actions to help others are often seen as heroes. For example, when Oskar Schindler, a Nazi businessman became outraged by the violence he saw against his Jewish workers, he did not think he could do anything to change the situation. He knew that trying to save them could endanger his own life, but he had an idea. He began to bribe the Nazis to keep his workers safe. One bribe led to another, and pretty soon his factory became a safe haven for as many workers as he could manage. By the end of the war, he had given away all of his money and risked his life many times, but he had also saved so many people. Oskar Schindler's actions proved that being courageous in the face of danger is worth it. He is a hero because of the lives he saved, and his name will live on as someone who wasn't afraid to take action when others did not.

Body Paragraph
#1

The Meat of the Paper: Writing the Body Paragraphs

You would then follow the same steps to write a second body paragraph.

Here is what a second body paragraph would look like for this essay.

Taking actions can also inspire others to follow your lead and act. In Schindler's case, one of his factory workers who survived the war dedicated his life to sharing what happened there. As a result of his actions, a book was written and made into a film about Schindler's life and what he did. Millions of people now know his powerful story. Seeing his powerful story might motivate people to take action against injustices in the world and stand up for others.

Body Paragraph
#2

The Meat of the Paper: Writing the Body Paragraphs

Now it's your turn! COLOR PROMPT ACTIVITY 4

Now complete the graphic organizer by adding commentary to your body paragraph.

Complete the last box of the graphic organizer.



Commentary

Now ask yourself, *So what?*

Explain how that example supports your *topic sentence*.

Connecting to the Ending: **The Conclusion**

An effective way to write a conclusion is to draw an insightful reflection in the last few sentences.

One way to do this is through a



Concrete Reflection.

A concrete reflection uses the object placement strategy.

This simply means you take something you mentioned in your introduction and mention it again in your conclusion to bring the paper together.

Connecting to the Ending: The Conclusion

Remember that we wrote hooks that connected to the **example** we wanted to use in the paper.

You should end your essay with a final reflection about your **example** AND a restatement of your **thesis statement**.

Let's take another look at our introduction. I will use the **funnel** hook we wrote.

Six million Jewish people died in the Holocaust, but 1,100 did not because one man protected them. When few others cared or dared to defy the Nazis, Oskar Schindler took action. As shown in the movie, *Schindler's List*, it is important to take action because the actions of just one person can impact and inspire those around them.

What could we say to reflect on the **movie** AND restate our **thesis statement**?

Connecting to the Ending: The Conclusion

In the closing scene of the movie, more than a hundred survivors that Oskar Schindler saved line up to lay flowers on his grave. Their tribute to him demonstrates the impact of his actions and will hopefully inspire others to act as he did.

Connecting to the Ending: The Conclusion

COLOR PROMPT ACTIVITY 5

Using the same colored paper prompt as before, complete the following:

- 1) Choose your best introduction from your colored paper prompt.
- 2) Write a **conclusion** that reflects on the **EXAMPLE** you chose
AND
restates your **THESIS STATEMENT**.

Putting it all Together



Six million Jewish people died in the Holocaust, but 1,100 did not because one man protected them. When few others cared or dared to defy the Nazis, Oskar Schindler took action. As shown in the movie, *Schindler's List*, it is important to take action because the actions of just one person can impact and inspire those around them.

Those who take actions to help others are often seen as heroes. For example, when Oskar Schindler, a Nazi businessman became outraged by the violence he saw against his Jewish workers, he did not think he could do anything to change the situation. He knew that trying to save them could endanger his own life, but he had an idea. He began to bribe the Nazis to keep his workers safe. One bribe led to another, and pretty soon his factory became a safe haven for as many workers as he could manage. By the end of the war, he had given away all of his money and risked his life many times, but he had also saved so many people. Oskar Schindler's actions proved that being courageous in the face of danger is worth it. He is a hero because of the lives he saved, and his name will live on as someone who wasn't afraid to take action when others did not.

Taking actions can also inspire others to follow your lead and act. In Schindler's case, one of his factory workers who survived the war dedicated his life to sharing what happened there. As a result of his actions, a book was written and made into a film about Schindler's life and what he did. Millions of people now know his powerful story. Seeing his powerful story might motivate people to take action against injustices in the world and stand up for others.

In the closing scene of the movie, more than a hundred survivors that Oskar Schindler saved line up to lay flowers on his grave. Their tribute to him demonstrates the impact of his actions and will hopefully inspire others to act as he did.

Putting it all Together



Clarity



When you write your essay you need to be very clear. You want your reader to understand what you are saying.

Your essay is clear when you...

- **Organize it** using good transition words
- **Use words from the prompt to stay focused and on topic**
 - **Revise and edit** your essay

Putting it all Together

COLOR PROMPT ACTIVITY 6



For your final task on your colored paper prompt, complete the following:

Put your essay together and write it on the lined paper.

- 1) Choose one of your introductions.
- 2) Write your first body paragraph down.
- 3) Now write a second body paragraph.**
- 4) Finally write your conclusion which includes a concrete reflection.

Be sure that all of your essay fits on the 26 lines.

When you finish you will have written an entire expository essay that I will grade.

Take your time and be creative!