

## **Introductory Paragraphs**

(*St. Martin's Handbook* 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. 132-138)

*The following paragraphs are introductions to student drafts developed in response to an assignment in which they were to analyze the ethos of the judges appearing in daytime courtroom reality television shows. Consider the strengths and weaknesses of each introduction and thesis statement. Which of the three papers would you rather read? Why?*

I chose to watch and write about “Judge Judy.” Through watching her, I found she establishes her ethos very well. Judge Judy shows her authority in what she wears, the visual of the courtroom, and her attitude toward the plaintiff and defendant.

There are many types of shows on television, but reality shows are very popular in today’s society. It seems like there is a new reality show every week. One popular reality show to watch is “Judge Judy”, but why is it so popular? It might be popular because she is appealing to the modern audience while keeping that traditional courtroom feel. She appeals to the modern audience with her attitude and the cases that her show chooses to air. Judge Judy shows her ethos in the courtroom by the traditional courtroom setting and her attitude as a judge.

A man borrowed a large sum of money from a friend and never repaid him. A woman purposely dented her ex-boyfriend’s car. A salesman committed fraud against a customer. These are all examples of cases that would end up in small claims court. Hollywood has discovered that small claims cases make for entertaining and profitable television; thus, the court shows were born. Television court Judge Judith Sheindlin has been presiding over televised cases for the past several years. The roles of the people and the credibility that they bring to Judge Sheindlin’s courtroom distinguish it from the other courtrooms on television even though all share some basic similarities. By taking similar roles as regular courtroom members, the actions of the people in Judge Sheindlin’s courtroom communicate her fair justice in the cases.

*The following paragraphs are from assignments that asked students to develop a narrative that defines the concepts of “citizenship” or “community.” Provide suggestions for revision.*

#### “My Team is My Community”

When I think of community, I think about my paintball team. I remember how we all randomly became best friends and how we would always stick together. We would be at each other’s side No matter what tournament we went to or where we would go the night before.

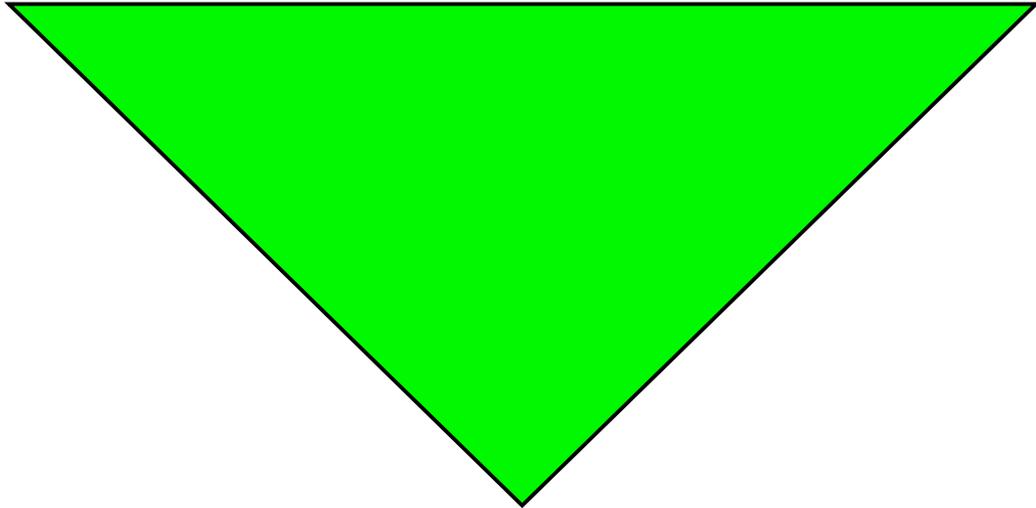
#### “The Warmth of a Smile”

It was July 5 and after a night full of fireworks and friends, I was exhausted. Yet I was up and ready with luggage in hand, I stepped off of the plane and onto unknown grounds. Though it was a poor and rubbished place, the beauty of the people made Honduras an amazing country. This country made South Carolina look like a mansion. The majority of people in Honduras barely make enough money to feed their family or survive. In spite of this, they hold their head high and look at the bright side of life. They consider being able to wake up a gift while I sometimes consider it a pain. Going to work, I moan and groan while they rejoice that they have a job to put food on the table. Church is considered a special event everyone comes to celebrate and during church that my eyes were opened to the welcoming and understanding of a community that did not know my language.

## **Introductory Paragraph Goals**

- Create a bond/connection with your reader
- Introduce the thesis sentence

**General Ideas**



**Specific Purpose and Claim  
(Thesis)**

- Invert the triangle for the conclusion