

Name: _____ Date: _____

Class: _____

Writing Prompt:

After reading the statistics about teen cell phone use, **write the first paragraph of a letter to your parents that explains how teenagers use their cell phones.** You want them to buy you a new smartphone, so think about how the statistics might help you get your way. You also want to grab their attention (so they'll read your whole letter!), so make the beginning interesting.

Introduction Checklist:

To show that you know how to write an introduction for an essay, you must be able to check all of these things off the list.

The “Hook” (first sentence of the paragraph, also known as the topic sentence):

- Grabs the reader’s attention.
 - Here’s what makes it interesting: _____
- Clearly connects to the topic of the paragraph.
- Is a complete sentence (subject, verb, correct punctuation).

Body of the paragraph:

- Contains relevant facts, examples, details, and/or quotations that help explain your topic.
- Sentences are complete (subject, verb, correct punctuation).
- Focuses on one single topic.
- Explains a topic in a way that the reader can understand. *You’ve explained parts in extra detail that might be confusing to someone who isn’t in your class.*

Thesis/main idea of the paragraph:

- It is clear what your thesis/main idea is (the point you’re trying to make).
- Your last sentence tells the reader what the rest of the essay will be about.

There are 9 items on this list. If each one equals one point, then here’s what your score means:

9 = You’re an introduction expert! Start helping other people write good introductions.

6-8 = You’re pretty good at writing introductions, but you need to add a few more parts to become an expert.

3-5 = You’ve got a good start, but you just need a little more practice.

0-2 = You must be having a bad writing day. Use this checklist and try again – your next score will be better!

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