

# Writer's Block

## Intro Paragraphs

# What they DO

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- Orient reader to purpose
- Address the scope
- Put forward a thesis answering the question
- Place the thesis in context
- By end, reader has a general idea of the topic and the direction (the stance)

# What they are NOT

- A list of facts you will be using as evidence later in the paper
- Flowery, overblown, grandiose statements
- A summary of your entire paper
- A long, multi-sentence thesis statement

# What they are

- A brief overview of the historical situation told without spoilers for the essay to follow
- A statement of what the reader needs to know in order to understand your thesis
- An interesting attention grabber without being hyperbolic

# Notes of style

- Remember always:
  - Third Person
  - Formal language
  - Past tense
- NO rhetorical questions!
- NO broad generalizations!