## Intro and Conclusion Samples with Highlighted Transitions

## Introductory paragraphs should catch the reader's attention and make him/her want to read the essay. The introduction should not use information that the writer will repeat in body paragraphs. Such dooming structure quickly relegates the paper to middle school level writing.  Here are some examples of better introductory paragraphs, using a variety of intro topics: INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH: The intro. topic is a story/news item.

           According to FoxNews.com, Lori Drew, a mother charged with some type of online misbehavior targeting a teenaged girl, is now being taunted online herself. Allegedly a co-worker and Lori Drew created a MySpace persona belonging to a fictitious boy, Joshua. He became involved with Megan Meier, a former friend of Drew’s daughter. The girls had a quarrel over another boy at school. After these grown women manipulated a strong emotional bond on Megan’s part toward Joshua, they orchestrated his extremely demeaning breakup where he mentioned that the world would be better off without her. Megan hanged herself in her bedroom with a belt. Bullying may not be new but it has certainly diversified and perhaps become more pervasive. Even simple schoolyard squabbles have become newsworthy. In the Daily Breezearticle “Joke Award No Joke to Student,” Renee Mollanen describes a minor incident at Williams Elementary School. Despite the fact that bullying leads to low self-esteem, depression, and anxiety amongst young children and teens, Ms. Marquez should not be seriously reprimanded for presenting her student, Meagan Doyon, with an insulting award, which made her a target for some teasing among her peers.

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH: The intro. topic is definition.

           What constitutes bullying? Some people think that picking on someone just once would be considered rude but that bullying entails repeated abuse. Insulting someone based on ethnicity demonstrates a type of bullying that also leans toward the category referred to as a hate crime. Nowadays, children and teens have more ways to be bullied because of FaceBook and other social media. Schools have difficulty dealing with abuse that does not seem to be in their jurisdiction; nonetheless, the damaging attacks must be stopped somehow. People believe that education about the effects of bullying can, at times, help to eradicate some such instances. In the Daily Breezearticle “Joke Award No Joke to Student,” Renee Mollanen describes a serious problem at Williams Elementary School. Because bullying leads to low self-esteem, depression, and anxiety amongst young children and teens, Ms. Marquez should be seriously reprimanded for presenting her student, Meagan Doyon, with an insulting award, which made her a target for cruelty among her peers.

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH: The intro. topic is famous quote.

           “Conflict builds character. Crisis defines it” (Steven V. Thulon). Truly, people need to have little problems to practice with, so they can develop the knowledge, fortitude and gumption to handle much more serious situations. People like to explore their perception of bravery and ethics through entertainment. Disaster movies help people consider how they would handle a similar situation. Most want to relate to the righteous victor. Emotionally healthy children have a favorite super hero, a role model to relate to that provides an ideal of strength and honor. But it takes much more than a fictitious champion to build the foundation of a steadfast, moral constitution. Coddled children never learn to withstand teasing. Spoiled children never learn to deal with disappointment. No one should be protected from emotional growth, but sometimes lessons can be quite harsh. For example, Renee Mollanen’s Daily Breeze article “Joke Award No Joke to Student” describes a conflict gone crisis regarding a bullying incident at Williams Elementary School. Because such attacks lead to low self-esteem, depression, and anxiety amongst young children and teens, Ms. Marquez should be seriously reprimanded for presenting her student, Meagan Doyon, with an insulting award, which made her a target for cruelty among her peers.

INTRODUCTIONS FOR OTHER ESSAY AND A COUPLE OF CONCLUSIONS  
INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH: The intro. topic is story/news item.  
  
           According to AOLnews.com, one June night in 1993, a Lorena Bobbitt had suffered the last abuse from her husband, John Wayne, who upon returning home from a night of drinking, raped her. After he fell asleep, Mrs. Bobbitt cut off and took possession of his penis, drove away and tossed his manhood into a field. Radical feminists rallied in support and called her a hero. More rational people’s views ranged from pity, to disgust, but almost everyone had to smile just a little. Their fiasco became a national joke. Nonetheless, many people considered Lorena a symbol for abused women. Eventually, perhaps to redeem herself, the knife wielding wild woman established an anti-domestic violence organization called Lorena’s Red Wagon. The subjugation and victimization of women has been a topic of great interest in recent years, largely because of the feminist movement. Documentaries, protests, current events, stories and poetry have sought to educate society. Adrienne Rich’s 1951 poem “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers” presents a subtle and symbolic reflection of the invisibility and powerlessness of women.

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH: The intro. topic is devil's advocate.

Her Folly Unfolds

           People argue about the silliest things. For some, Coke and Pepsi are the same. Wait-staff in restaurants occasionally fail to let the customer know that the establishment serves one versus the other, but when the drink arrives, many customers know they did not get what they had asked for. Coke and Pepsi send spies to see if a restaurant serves someone its product when a customer asked for the other, which leads to legal action and fines. On the other hand, more profound arguments can become contentious because of the topic, such as women’s rights, discipline in schools, and spanking. The subject of parenting in general provides great fodder for discussion. The story “Through the Tunnel” by Doris Lessing exemplifies one type of parenting. Jane Fulton believes that Jerry’s mother has only adequate parenting skills because she “should have been a little more attentive,” but she adds that “[n]o mother is perfect so all in all she is a good parent.” Fulton’s overly generous assessment neglects the fact that Jerry’s mother is dangerously neglectful.

CONCLUSION EXAMPLES FOR "THROUGH THE TUNNEL" ESSAY:  
Notice that the intro topic is referred to at the end of the conclusion, not the beginning. Also, the conclusion reiterates the thesis but does not restate it directly.  The conclusion in these examples discounts Fulton’s point one more time. A conclusion can make a recommendation, advocate some type of action, offer a critique, make a prediction, or a provide a combination of these.  A conclusion can be shorter than the intro and body paragraphs. It will not include new information.    
  
           Lessings’ story offers an excellent morsel for parenting proponents to chew on. Certainly, people must concede the inaccuracy of Fulton’s argument. After all, the mother’s weakness speaks to all kinds of neglect. If Lessing would write a sequel, the son could end up dead in his next ridiculous adventure. Some decisions have much greater ramifications than choosing Coke or Pepsi.