Introduction Blueprint

Study how an effective introduction guides an argument.

11.W.1.A.i "Write extended pieces that: Introduce a topic clearly by providing context, presenting well-defined theses, and previewing what follows."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the context details in paragraph 1, circle the thesis, and number the three previewed points 1, 2, and 3. These moves show how the introduction prepares readers for the argument.

Trees as City Infrastructure

1 On summer afternoons, pavement can make city neighborhoods far hotter than nearby parks. This heat threatens health, raises energy costs, and falls hardest on residents with little shade. Cities should treat tree planting as essential infrastructure, not decoration. Expanding tree cover can cool streets, improve public health, and make neighborhoods more equitable. Examining temperature data, health effects, and access to green space shows why a coordinated planting plan deserves public funding.

2 Trees lower surface and air temperatures by shading sidewalks and releasing water vapor through their leaves. In one well-known example, researchers have repeatedly found cooler conditions beneath tree canopy than over exposed pavement, though results vary by species, weather, and location. Cooler blocks can also lessen the danger of heat illness during heat waves. A city plan should protect mature trees while planting diverse, climate-suited species.

3 Heat is also a fairness issue. In many U.S. cities, historically underinvested neighborhoods have fewer trees and more heat-absorbing surfaces than wealthier areas. Planting decisions should use local heat maps and resident input, rather than simply favoring highly visible streets. Funding maintenance, watering, and young-tree care matters as much as planting day. By joining sound science with fair distribution, cities can build cooler places for everyone over time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which details in paragraph 1 give readers context for the argument?

2. What is the thesis of the passage?

3. What three points does the introduction preview?

4. How do paragraphs 2 and 3 follow the introduction's preview?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 55-70-word introduction to an argument about whether your school should create a quiet study period during the day. Give context, state a clear position, and preview two reasons your essay will develop.

ANSWER KEY

Introduction Blueprint

GRADE 11 · 11.W.1.A.i

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the context details in paragraph 1, circle the thesis, and number the three previewed points 1, 2, and 3. These moves show how the introduction prepares readers for the argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which details in paragraph 1 give readers context for the argument?	**Pavement makes neighborhoods hotter than parks, and this heat harms health, raises energy costs, and affects residents with little shade.**
2	What is the thesis of the passage?	**Cities should treat tree planting as essential infrastructure, not decoration.**
3	What three points does the introduction preview?	**Temperature data, health effects, and access to green space.**
4	How do paragraphs 2 and 3 follow the introduction's preview?	**Paragraph 2 addresses temperature and health effects. Paragraph 3 addresses unequal access to trees and green space.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many students move from class to class with little time to finish assignments, ask teachers questions, or reset after demanding work. Our school should add a supervised quiet study period twice each week. This change would give students protected time to complete work and would help teachers offer targeted support before small problems become larger academic setbacks.

Accept introductions that establish a relevant situation, make a specific arguable claim, and preview two distinct supporting points. The wording and order of the preview may vary.