

**THE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH:**

- Makes it clear what you are discussing (this is the **TOPIC**)
- Tells the reader how you feel about the topic, (for example, do you agree or disagree with it) (this is the **THESIS STATEMENT**)

The novel *In the Heat of the Night* explores the racial problems within the United States. Bill Gillespie's racist attitudes towards the black detective Virgil Tibbs is one way of showing this racial divide. The town also shows racism because of their hiring of Bill Gillespie and the town's attitude towards black people. The Purdy family in the novel also clearly shows society's attitudes towards black people through their treatment of Virgil Tibbs. Although some people may not realize it the theme of racism that is broadcasted in the novel is still present today.

- Includes the **three** main topics/ideas that you will use to discuss the topic and show your thesis. You have three so that each one can be expanded into a body paragraph for each. (these are the **TOPIC STATEMENTS**)
- A sentence that keeps the reader interested in what you have to say (this is a **HOOK SENTENCE**)

**EXAMPLE OF AN INTRO PARAGRAPH OUTLINE:**

**TOPIC:** *School Hours*

**THESIS:** *School should start at 10am and continue until 2pm*

**TOPIC STATEMENT 1:** *Students will get to sleep in and will be more productive*

**TOPIC STATEMENT 2:** *Teachers will not have to get up earlier and so they won't be crabby*

**TOPIC STATEMENT 3:** *Students who take the bus will have more time to do stuff*

**HOOK SENTENCE:** *Therefore, school should start at 10am and end at 2pm so students and teachers will be more productive and have more time to do things at home.*

**MAKING AN OUTLINE A PARAGRAPH:**

Topic When it comes to school hours it would be great if school started at 10am and ended at 2pm, Thesis which is a slight change from the current hours. Reasons to show that this is a good idea include that TOPIC STATEMENTS students will get to sleep in and be more productive, teachers will not have to get up so earlier and will

Hook Sentence

then not be crabby and finally, students who take the bus will have more time to do other things.

Therefore, school should start at 10am and end at 2pm so students and teachers will be more productive and have more time to enjoy life.