ARGUMENT
Many students fall asleep in their morning classes. Do you think school starts too early? In an argument, defend, challenge, or qualify whether you believe school should start later than 7:25.

- With your group, write a potential introduction to an essay arguing this topic.
- First, what does a good introduction need to do?
WHAT IS A THESIS STATEMENT?

- tells the reader how you will interpret the significance of the subject matter under discussion.
- directly answers the question asked of you. A thesis is an interpretation of a question or subject, not the subject itself.
- makes a claim that others might dispute.
- is usually a single sentence somewhere in your first paragraph that presents your argument to the reader. The rest of the paper, the body of the essay, gathers and organizes evidence that will persuade the reader of the logic of your interpretation.
HOW DO I WRITE A GOOD THESIS?

- Formulating a thesis is not the first task in a writing assignment.
  - you have to collect and organize evidence
  - look for possible relationships between known facts (such as surprising contrasts or similarities)
  - think about the significance of these relationships.

Now you have a “working thesis”. An argument that you think you can support with evidence but that may need adjustment along the way.
Introduction

- Gains readers’ interest and willingness to listen.
- Establishes your qualifications to write about your topic.
- Establishes some common ground with your audience. (Why should the audience care like the writer does?)
- Demonstrates that you’re fair and evenhanded.
- States your thesis/claim.

Here it is again...

- Many students fall asleep in their morning classes. Do you think school starts too early? In an argument, defend, challenge, or qualify whether you believe school should start later than 7:25.
ARGUMENT: ORGANIZATION MATTERS!
ARGUMENT: THE CLASSICAL ORATION
1. **Introduction (Exordium):** The speaker/writer tries to win the attention and good will of an audience while introducing a subject or problem.

2. **Narration (Narratio):** The speaker/writer presents the facts of the case, explaining what happened when, who is included, and so on. The *narratio* puts an argument in context.

3. **Partition (Partiotio):** The speaker/writer divides up the subject, explaining why the claim is, what the key issues are, and in what order the subject will be treated.

4. **Confirmation (Confirmatio):** The speaker/writer offers detailed support for the claim, using both logical reasoning and factual evidence.

5. **Refutation (Refutatio):** The speaker/writer acknowledges and then refutes opposing claims or evidence.

6. **Conclusion (Perroratio):** The speaker/writer summarizes the case and moves the audience to action.
ARGUMENT: THE MODERN INTERPRETATION
Introduction

- Gains readers’ interest and willingness to listen.
- Establishes your qualifications to write about your topic.
- Establishes some common ground with your audience. (Why should the audience care like the writer does?)
- Demonstrates that you’re fair and evenhanded.
- States your thesis/claim.
Background
- Presents any necessary information, including personal narrative, that’s important to your argument.

Lines of argument
- Presents good reasons, including logical and emotional appeals, in support of your claims.
Counter Argument

- Examines alternative points of view and opposing arguments.
- Notes the advantages and disadvantages of these views.
- Explains why your view is better than others.
Conclusion

- Summarizes the argument.
- Elaborates on the implications of your claim. (Why does this argument matter?)
- Makes clear what you want the audience to think or do.
- Reinforces your credibility and perhaps offers an emotional appeal.
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In each annotation, explain how you know your choice of text fits that element.