

Writing the Introduction to the Influential Person Essay

FORMAT

Seven to ten sentences in length

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| 1. Hook: | 3 – 4 sentences | Tell a story to create a vivid picture of your influential person <u>OR</u> speak in broad terms about influential people and narrow the idea down to your person. Use strong sensory details. |
| 2. Background | 3 – 4 sentences | Establish your relationship with the topic. How are you familiar with the person being discussed? Your main points can be woven into this section. |
| 3. Thesis | 1 sentence | State your thesis |

SAMPLE INTRODUCTION

In most books, the definition of a hero is a strong person usually admired for saving someone's life or some other brave action. My definition is quite different. My definition is someone who stands up for what they think is right. A hero is a person who helps another person through the kindness of his or her heart, not some man with bulging muscles and biceps and a long flowing cape. Mrs. Bettijane Robinson has been my dance teacher since I was three. I remember the first day I met her, I walked into her room with no friends and immediately she came over and put a smile on my face by saying her favorite quote, "Now _____, if you don't put a smile on your face right now I might have to hang you upside down to make that frown into a smile!" From that moment Mrs. Betty, as her students called her was my role model. She changed my life for the better in ways that were shown through her heart not as others would through their body strength. She does everything in her power to make her students days brighter. Being devoted and hardworking, extremely supportive, and fair to all people is why Mrs. Bettijane Robinson is my personal hero.

GENERAL REMINDERS

Remember the rules of formal writing:

- Use I, me, my language appropriately. Avoid "I think" and "In this paragraph I will..."
- Do not use contractions and abbreviations. Spell everything out fully.
- Avoid slang and clichés. Write in a manner appropriate to the assignment.
- Avoid the use of "thing" and "stuff". There are far more specific words that can be used in order to be as descriptive as possible.