Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pd:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Introduction Paragraph

**Background**- You are going to set your reader up with background on the overall topic of your paper or hook them into the paper

You are filtering down the big idea into you specific thesis!

**Transition**- You are going to bridge together the background and what you are going to prove (thesis)

**Thesis**- What you are going to prove/cover in the paper.

Things **NOT** to Do In a Thesis

* Do not say your intentions
  + Ex. In this essay I am going to prove…
  + Ex. The purpose of this essay is to
* Do not go off topic: Your thesis is setting up what the rest of your paper will look like. Stick to your topic/thesis

Example Thesis: Using markers underline the three parts of a thesis, background, transition, and thesis.

The Civil War, occurring between the years 1861 and 1865, was the most devastating conflict in American history. This revolution brought about great change in the country. The Civil War changed the United States politically, socially, and economically.

**Put it into Practice:**

You are going to evaluate the following introductory paragraphs/thesis. Underline the three parts of the thesis, background, transition, and thesis, and then write what is wrong with it.

**Example #1**

I usually hate the books that my English teachers make me read.  I am so bored with reading stories about old white men who do nothing particularly interesting, or helpless women that are waiting to be rescued from some unforeseen evil.  However, my brilliant English teacher assigned the book The Lovely Bones, a book that has altered my views on required reading.  This book is captivating, with it’s unusual content, bizarre characters, and vivid descriptions.

**Your Comments**:

**Example #2**

   In Edgar Allan Poe’s short story “The Fall of the House of Usher,” the sins of the father fell on his children. Siblings Roderick and Madeline Usher suffer and die in their crumbling house, destroyed by the poor Usher family legacy. I am going to prove that Poe uses descriptions of pieces of art in the story to show the Usher family’s failed attempts to make up for their sins.

**Your Comments:**