

Introductory Paragraphs

ENGLISH:

- I. **Background information**
- II. Thesis statement

HISTORY:

- I. **Background information**
- II. Thesis statement
- III. Preview (refer to the subtopics indirectly without explicitly listing them)

Background Information

ENGLISH:

1. **Category of work** (novel, memoir, short story, speech, etc.)
2. **Title**
3. **Author's name**
4. **Verb** (he asserts, she argues, they categorize, the author establishes, etc.)
5. **What they are doing**

For example:

In the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee highlights deeply rooted prejudice through the eyes of the citizens of a small Southern town.

Elizabeth Gilbert redefines the role of the modern woman in her memoir, *Eat Pray, Love*.

Alas, Babylon, a post-apocalyptic novel, illustrates Pat Frank's assertion that a society without law will inevitably self-destruct.

HISTORY:

1. **Time/Era**
2. **Setting/Place** (if relevant)

For example:

During the late 15th century, sweeping changes effected all levels of society, especially on the Italian Peninsula.

Nineteen-thirties America was a time of social, economic, and political despair.

After 24 years of Nelson Mandela's incarceration, the divided nation of South Africa was nonetheless ripe for change.