

Name _____

Date _____

Breaking Down The Essay

Introduction (paragraphs 1-3)

Narrative Lead. Often a writer will begin an essay with a narrative lead. Cate Malek decided to omit a narrative lead and jump straight to the context of her introduction. A narrative lead draws the readers in and dramatizes the issue. Sometimes it describes an important moment that will foreshadow the main idea of the essay.

1. Please write your own narrative lead for the beginning of this article here:

Context. In any research paper you need to give some general context or background information about your topic and why it's important.

2. What background information does Malek give us about the strike in 2003?

3. Who are the parties she tells us are involved?

Thesis/ Argument/ Main Idea: Everything in an essay should be focused on one statement: the thesis. The thesis in this essay is: **“These workers and their employers are locked into an intractable conflict.”**

Body section 1: This is the first opportunity for the writer to use concrete examples to support her thesis.

Who are the parties involved in the conflict and what are their interests?

Why does this create an intractable conflict?

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Body Section 2: This is the second place where the writer can support her thesis with concrete examples.
<i>What are some ways to resolve the conflict?</i>
<i>How do these many ways of resolving the conflict show that this is an intractable conflict?</i>

Conclusion: This takes us a step beyond the conclusion. What is the bigger idea of the essay? Why is all this important?
<i>What are the deep-rooted conflicts that are at the heart of the labor disputes?</i>
<i>What other types of workers are struggling with similar disputes?</i>
<i>What needs to be done?</i>

Now it's your turn to write an essay about an intractable conflict.

Introduction:
Lead: Consider starting your essay with a narrative lead. Describe a moment that is somehow symbolic of your thesis. Or try a quotation as a lead. Can you quote someone involved in the conflict or something about the conflict that hooks the reader and introduces the ideas in your essay?
<i>Write your notes and ideas here:</i>
<i>Write the sources they came from here:</i>

Context: Every introduction needs to contain some background information. What does the reader need to know to understand your thesis?
(sources?)
Thesis: <i>The controversy over abortion in the United States is a deeply entrenched, intractable conflict.</i>

Body section 1:	(sources?)
1. Who are the parties involved?	
2. What do they want and why? Describe in detail.	

Body section 2:	(sources?)
Give a brief history of the struggle. Describe any legal action or violence that support your thesis. Research some of the important dates to show how the two different parties went about getting what they wanted.	

Body Paragraph 3:	<i>(sources?)</i>
What are the costs of this conflict? What could be done to transform it into something positive for both parties?	

Conclusion:	<i>(sources?)</i>
Why is this conflict important to so many people? Why is it so significant that it can't be easily solved? What does this show?	

Working Bibliography: As you go, please make a working bibliography. Every time you start using a new source, write it down here so that you remember where you got your information.