

4.2 Writing introductions and conclusions

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS conclusion 结论 • introduction 引言

Objective

Build the skills to write an **introduction** 引言 and **conclusion** 结论 that do work.

You must be able to:

- open with something that earns the reader’s attention and sets up the thesis
- place a thesis where it can be found
- close without merely restating the introduction
- avoid the two standard failures: the empty opening and the summary ending

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ An opening that works

Begin with the exigence, a specific case, or the objection you must overcome — anything that makes the thesis necessary. “Since the beginning of time, people have argued about education” makes nothing necessary.

■ Placing the thesis

Usually at the end of the introduction, where the reader has enough context to understand it. A thesis in the first sentence often arrives before it can mean anything.

■ A conclusion that earns its place

State what follows now that the argument has been made: the implication, the cost of ignoring it, the question it opens. A conclusion that summarises tells the reader what they have just read.

2 Practice

2.1 State two things an effective opening can do. [2]

2.2 Explain why a summary conclusion is weak. [2]

2.3 An essay opens: “Throughout history, humans have used technology.”

(a) State the weakness. [1]

(b) Rewrite the opening for an essay on classroom phone bans. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A thesis is usually best placed [1]

- A

B

C

D

A in the first sentence

B at the end of the introduction

C in the middle of the essay

D in the final sentence only

3.2 A strong conclusion most often states [1]

- A

B

C

D

A what was said

B what follows now that the argument has been made

C the writer’s name

D a new thesis

3.3 Write an introduction of two to three sentences for: “Should museums return objects taken during colonial rule?” [4]
