

## 14. INDUCTIVE HOOK AND FULL-CIRCLE CONCLUSION

Examples are incredibly useful for helping you prove your point in the body of your essay. Examples and anecdotes also are excellent for hooking your reader's interest from the very beginning of your essay. Similarly, returning to an opening example or anecdote at the end of your composition will bring your reader full circle to a pleasing conclusion.

**An inductive hook.** Make a strong first impression on your reader by beginning with a specific example or anecdote that relates directly to your main point. Starting with a specific example or an anecdote will hook the reader's interest by providing concrete images of real people, places, and things. After your opening example or anecdote, you can then lead your reader from the specific to the general by stating your thesis. Using an inductive hook also opens the door for ending your composition with a smooth, satisfying conclusion.

**A full-circle conclusion.** When you are wrapping up your essay, return to your opening example or anecdote to give your reader the pleasing sense of coming full circle. Returning to the starting point will give the reader the satisfying, almost subliminal, feeling of completing a journey successfully.

### Directions

Read the following passage on train travel. As you read, notice how the writer employs both an inductive hook and a full-circle conclusion.

*Sitting in a train traveling from Manchester to London in 1990, a young woman got a billion-dollar idea. She began to imagine a character—"a bespectacled boy who did not know he was a wizard." Where else but in the friendly and comfortable confines of a train might someone like J.K. Rowling be inspired to write stories of the young wizard named Harry Potter?*

*Beyond just literary inspiration, there are plenty of other reasons to be inspired by train travel. It's economical—typically half the cost of traveling by plane. It's flexible and hassle-free—no need to stand in long security lines or even make advanced reservations. And it's convenient—unlike airports, most train stations are located in the heart of the city, in easy walking distance from hotels, sightseeing, and shopping. Not only is train travel cheaper than airfare, it is also more consistently and reliably priced without the arbitrary constraints of airline pricing where, for example, a one-way ticket costs more than a round-trip ticket. In addition to economical sense, train travel also makes eco-sense since trains are more energy efficient, using 70 percent less energy and emitting up to 85 percent less air pollution than airplanes. But perhaps the best argument for train travel is the charm and relaxation of this most humane form of transportation. There's plenty of legroom, plenty of opportunities to move or walk around, and plenty of things to see right outside your window: wild life, rivers, mountains, small towns, and great cities. You'll have time to breath, relax, and imagine.*

*J.K. Rowling may have imagined a young wizard flying on a broomstick, but she didn't get the idea in the cramped, claustrophobic seat of a flying jet airliner. Harry Potter was born on a train.*

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1. What example or anecdote does the writer use to open the paragraph?
  2. How does the concluding sentence bring the reader full circle?
  3. As a reader, how would you describe the effect of the writer's use of an inductive hook and a full-circle conclusion?
  4. Now select your own topic from the list of prompts your teacher gives you. Write an introductory paragraph using an inductive hook.

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