

Introductory and Developing Paragraphs

Evaluate how well the following introductory and developmental paragraphs begin essays on the following topic:

On April 26, 1882, the day Charles Darwin was buried in Westminster Abbey, The Times of London wrote:

The Abbey has its orators and ministers who have convinced senates and swayed nations. Not one of them all has wielded a power over men and their intelligences more complete than that which for the last twenty-three years has emanated from a simple country house in Kent. " [Darwin lived in the small town of Downe, in Kent, just outside of London].

In your opinion, was (is) this statement justified? Was (is) Darwin's impact on the world comparable to that of other "great" individuals of history?

Compare Darwin to one or more people who have had a large impact on the world in any area, for example making or causing changes that have had lasting impact on society or that started a cascade of events that had major impact. Compare and contrast the impact that these people (this person) and Darwin have had on one or more areas of society (for example, politics, philosophy, religion, economics, social structure - but you could think of many more).

Comment on and *suggest changes* for each paragraph. Keep the following things in mind:

Introduction:

- Does the introduction tell you what the paper will be about? Is there a thesis statement or is there just metadiscourse telling you what will happen in the paper? Where possible, suggest changes to make the paragraph more effective. - Does the thesis address the question adequately? - Is the paper well motivated - does the intro. capture your attention, set up an interesting contrast, reveal a synthetic approach in which the author attempts bring themes together to provide an overarching structure for the essay?

Developing Paragraph:

- Does the developing paragraph begin with a strong topic sentence which sets up the rest of the paragraph and which forms a smooth transition from the preceding paragraph? Or do you see a better topic sentence elsewhere in the paragraph?

- Is (Are) the key point(s) of the paragraph fully explained? Or are you left wishing for "more"?

Finally, as time allows, comment on style, keeping in mind the points we have already discussed.