

Sample Introductory Paragraphs

1. “Democracy is worth dying for, because it’s the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man,” stated former president of our democratic nation, Ronald Reagan. Democracy is one of the most valuable Greek contributions to society around the globe. This innovative concept of government developed in Athens and not in other civilizations because of the unique historical and cultural conditions in which it formed. This includes the communal unity, competitive activities, religion, and desperation for a stable government of the Athenian people.

2. The fictional government of Oceania in George Orwell’s *1984* bears a striking resemblance to the non-fictional Nazi party of World War II in Art Spiegelman’s *Maus* books. Led by the intimidating character of Big Brother, who sports a mustache similar to Hitler’s, the Party in *1984* strives to control and alter society in much the same manner as Hitler’s Nazi Party controlled German society. Both powers share a terrifying “utopian” vision, altering facts and history to fit their motives. Though *1984* and *Maus* each incorporate the concept of control, reflected in acts of censorship and the establishment of a strict hierarchy in society, they do so differently. The non-fictional Nazi party in *Maus* takes direct control of the Jewish population, making its desire for perfection and destruction known and clear. The Party in *1984*, however, is less direct. It manipulates the minds of its citizens, twisting lies and facts until the truth is lost in the past.

3. Ever since the invention of Eli Whitney’s cotton gin enabled southern planters to mass-produce upland cotton, the American South dominated the cotton production. As the southern expansion movement earned America huge amounts of land in the South, which have advantageous climatic conditions for cotton production, Southern states focused more on the cotton production taking advantage of newly gained vast lands. As a result, cotton occupied eighty percent of the overall products of the South after 1840s. Since cotton production relied heavily on the labor power, it was inevitable for white planters to use slaves as means of labor. Hence, the growth of cotton production intensified slavery. The more profit white plantation holders pursued, the harsher their treatments toward slaves become. Despite the brutal and inhumane conditions, slaves were able to endure the harshness and further find happiness in their lives. Slaves were empowered through religion, music, and tight community, which continued the tradition of African culture into a unique yet communal form of happiness that could only have been accomplished by the gathering of the slaves.