Time to write the introduction!

The **introduction** must...

⇒ establish the author's claim (the position or proposal)

⇒ give background information about the topic

The introduction may...

⇒ preview the author's major details (reasons or evidence used to support the argument)

⇒ address the audience directly
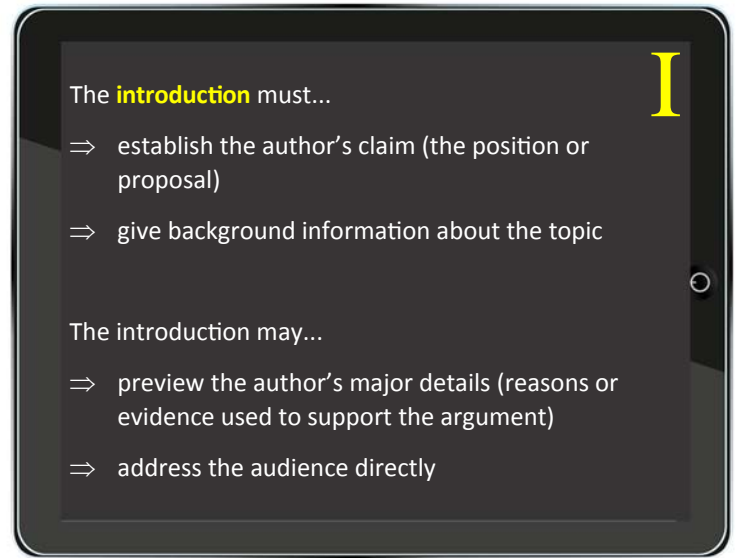
REVIEW THE PROMPT AND PLAN

This unit is designed to build argument writing skills.

An argument essay seeks to convince the reader to accept the writer's position or proposal.

1. Reread the **prompt**.
   Think of a policy at your school that needs to change or a new policy that should be implemented. Write an argument for your choice.

2. Review the **plan** developed yesterday.
   ↳ Is the **topic** clear?
   ↳ Is the **claim** clear?
   Is there a definite **position** or **proposal**?
   ↳ Are **reasons** and/or **evidence** provided?

3. Note changes or additions to the plan at the right.

LEARN THE TARGET

INTRODUCTION ESTABLISHES THE CLAIM

↳ The introduction is usually the first paragraph of the essay.
↳ The topic is named in the introduction.
  - The topic is often a problem or concern of some kind.
  - The author gives background information about the topic.
↳ The **claim** is the author's statement about the topic.
  - The claim is often a **proposal** for changing something.
↳ The claim is important to the reader because...
  - It tells the reader the purpose of the paper. The purpose is to convince the reader.
  - It establishes the importance or **urgency** of the paper.
  - It signals the reader to look for reasons and evidence to support the claim.
  - It allows the reader to think about his or her opinion about the topic.
↳ Read and think about the introduction paragraph from the anchor text on the next page.

claim (noun)
A claim is a statement of something as a fact.
Synonyms: assertion, contention, declaration
*The author's **claim** is that zoos are unhealthy environments for animals.*

proposal (noun)
A proposal is a suggestion or intention put forward.
Synonyms: plan, proposition, request, suggestion
*Her **proposal** is to save energy by supporting carpooling.*

urgency (noun)
Urgency is the quality or condition of seriousness.
Synonyms: importance, necessity, need
*The greatest **urgency** is to alert citizens when tornadoes occur.*

Anchor text introduction paragraph

Currently, Andrew Johnson Unified School District strictly prohibits the use of cell phones by students. Student handbooks at each school outlaw the possession of cell phones anywhere on school grounds. Any student with a cell phone will have it confiscated by faculty. This cell phone prohibition policy must be abandoned immediately and replaced with practical regulations for cell phone use by students. The disallowing of cell phones because of misuse by a few students must not forbid the access to the advantages of today's cell phone technology.

Think about and identify the features of the introduction paragraph from the anchor text.

1. What is the author's **claim**?

2. What **background information** about the topic is provided?

DRAFT THE PARAGRAPH

1. Write the **introduction paragraph** using the anchor text as a guide.
2. Include a clear **claim** and **background information** on the topic.