

**Avoid the trap of expressing ...**

### Alternative 1: The Decision Was Wise

The reasons are:

1. The Native Americans would feel less threatened and there would be less bloodshed.
2. A reduced threat of conflict could save the British from the expense of keeping large numbers of soldiers in the colonies.
3. It avoided conflict between fur trading interests and new settlers in the territory.
4. It gave politicians in Britain time to create a plan for westward expansion.

### Alternative 2: The Decision Was Unwise

The reasons are:

1. It would increase resentment towards the Native Americans among the colonists.
2. It would weaken the loyalty the colonists felt towards Britain.
3. By blocking westward growth and expansion, economic growth in the colonies would be hampered.
4. It set the stage for colonial rebellion in the Revolutionary War.

Your teacher asks you to take a position on the issue:

*Was the British decision in 1763 to seal off lands west of the Appalachians wise?*

You have a single paragraph to state and explain your position.

Your first step is to think about the two alternatives above. Do the conclusions make sense? Do the conclusions fit the facts? The example below uses alternative #2. If you choose Alternative #1, you follow the same process as in the example.

To introduce an argumentative paragraph agreeing with Alternative 2 you might write:

*The British were unwise in 1763 to block colonial expansion west of the Appalachians.*

This introduction contains:

- the issue at hand, *...in 1763 to block colonial expansion west of the Appalachians.*
- your position or thesis, *The British were unwise to....*

Avoid the trap of expressing the introductory statement in the first person. Do not write:

*I think the British were unwise to block colonial expansion west of the Appalachians.*

Also, the introduction does not contain any of the facts. The facts supporting the decision come in the sentences after the introductory sentence.

Even though this introductory sentence is a statement of your point of view, you should write it formally in the third person.

You are now ready to write the introduction for your own argumentative paragraph. Be sure to include the two elements for a successful introduction to the argument:

- introduce the issue involved
- state your position on that issue.