**Synthesis Hooks**

A hook is what catches the reader’s attention and makes them want to keep reading. However, there are some rules that apply. When using a hook be *sure to connect it to the rest of your introduction*. A single isolated sentence at the beginning of your essay will not enhance your essay. You must *provide context* for your hook – how does it relate to the rest of your essay?

The following examples all deal with the theme of isolation.

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| **Kind of Hook** | | **Notes** | **Example** |
| **Quotation** | | * From the internet * From literature * Put the speaker tag in the middle if you can. * Give context after (who said it? Why did they say it?). * You can quote from one of the synthesis texts. | a. “No man is an island,” wrote John Donne, a 17th-century poet.  b. “I’m nobody!” wrote Emily Dickinson. “Who are you?” Dickinson asked this question in the solitude of her attic room, where she remained in isolation from society for many years.  c. “All the lonely people—where do they come from?” The Beatles, the most popular rock band in history, reflected on human isolation in their depressing ballad “Eleanor Rigby.” |
| **General Statement** | | * Big idea using the key word * Often boring | Everyone is lonely sometimes.  Loneliness affects everyone. |
| **Definition** | | * Write your own * Use a dictionary * CITE your source * Often boring | Isolation, according to the Collins Dictionary, is the state of being “place[d] apart or alone.” |
| **Question** | | * Do NOT address the reader (no “you”) * Often boring | How many people are unconsciously ignored by others every day? |
| **Allusion** | **Historical** | * Refers to an event, person, or idea in history | In the year 423, Simeon the Stylite, a Christian ascetic, climbed to the top of a pillar in Syria. For the next thirty-seven years he remained there, trying to achieve perfect isolation from the rest of the world. |
| **Classical** | * Refers to Greek or Roman mythology | When Zeus punished Prometheus for bringing fire to men, the great titan’s punishment was twofold: vultures would come to devour his liver every day, and he was bound alone and isolated on the top of Mount Parnassus. |
| **Biblical** | * Refers to or quotes from the Bible | “My God, my God!” cried Christ as he hung dying. “Why hast thou forsaken me?” |
| **Contemporary** | * Refers to an event, person, or idea from the modern world | Critics of solitary confinement refer to it as psychological torture or “cruel and unusual punishment.” |