



TOPIC, THESIS, AND INTRODUCTION

What is the difference?

Joseph Szewczyk
for University of the People

TOPIC

What is a Topic?

In the broader sense, a Topic is the main theme of a work. For a practical example, we can look at the paragraph to the right.

What do you think the topic of this paragraph is?

Even though the album *Reflektor* is the first time David Bowie is given credit for working with Arcade Fire, official credit given is not the only way to see if someone worked together before because Arcade Fire and David Bowie worked together at Fashion Rocks in New York City. The first time the group worked with Bowie was during the live show of Fashion Rocks where they performed a duet. The album, *Reflektor*, is actually the second time they worked with David Bowie. This paper will first examine the live show, Fashion Rocks, then the album *Reflektor*, and finally how the temporality of events does not necessarily reflect the credit given.

TOPIC

What is a Topic?

As you can see, the Topic (highlighted in **Yellow**), is Arcade Fire and David Bowie performing together.

The rest of this paragraph discusses that basic topic.

Even though the album Reflektor is the first time David Bowie is given credit for working with Arcade Fire, official credit given is not the only way to see if someone worked together before because **Arcade Fire and David Bowie worked together** at Fashion Rocks in New York City. The first time the group worked with Bowie was during the live show of Fashion Rocks where they performed a duet. The album, Reflektor, is actually the second time they worked with David Bowie. This paper will first examine the live show, Fashion Rocks, then the album Reflektor, and finally how the temporality of events does not necessarily reflect the credit given.

THESIS

What is a Thesis?

A Thesis is a basic statement that is set down to be shown or proved. For an example here, we can look at the paragraph again.

What do you think the thesis of this paper is?

Even though the album Reflektor is the first time David Bowie is given credit for working with Arcade Fire, official credit given is not the only way to see if someone worked together before because Arcade Fire and David Bowie worked together at Fashion Rocks in New York City. The first time the group worked with Bowie was during the live show of Fashion Rocks where they performed a duet. The album, Reflektor, is actually the second time they worked with David Bowie. This paper will first examine the live show, Fashion Rocks, then the album Reflektor, and finally how the temporality of events does not necessarily reflect the credit given.

THESIS

What is a Thesis?

Once again, the answer is highlighted in **Yellow**. As you can see the entire first sentence is the Thesis for this paper. In fact, the thesis also acts like a topic sentence for the paragraph. "Although Arcade Fire and David Bowie

The example is a pretty simple thesis. In the rest of the readings, you will see how to make a thesis that is a bit more intricate.

Even though the album Reflektor is the first time David Bowie is given credit for working with Arcade Fire, official credit given is not the only way to see if someone worked together before because Arcade Fire and David Bowie worked together at Fashion Rocks in New York City. The first time the group worked with Bowie was during the live show of Fashion Rocks where they performed a duet. The album, Reflektor, is actually the second time they worked with David Bowie. This paper will first examine the live show, Fashion Rocks, then the album Reflektor, and finally how the temporality of events does not necessarily reflect the credit given.

INTRODUCTION

What is an Introduction?

The introduction should be at least the first paragraph to your essay. In longer papers, the introduction can span a few pages. The main purpose of the introduction is to let your reader know what you are going to discuss and what the rest of your paper might look like.

Introductions usually include the Thesis statement and a 'map' to the rest of the paper.

Can you spot the 'map' in this introduction paragraph?

Even though the album *Reflektor* is the first time David Bowie is given credit for working with Arcade Fire, official credit given is not the only way to see if someone worked together before because Arcade Fire and David Bowie worked together at Fashion Rocks in New York City. The first time the group worked with Bowie was during the live show of Fashion Rocks where they performed a duet. The album, *Reflektor*, is actually the second time they worked with David Bowie. This paper will first examine the live show, Fashion Rocks, then the album *Reflektor*, and finally how the temporality of events does not necessarily reflect the credit given.

INTRODUCTION

What is an Introduction?

The 'map', as seen in **Yellow**, gives the reader a clue to what the rest of the paper will discuss and the order of discussion. This paper's next paragraph or part would be on the live show, then the next part would be the album, and the final part before the conclusion would be on temporality of events in regards to credit given.

Papers will have longer or shorter introductions as needed, but the basic 'map' should be straight forward and concise.

Even though the album *Reflektor* is the first time David Bowie is given credit for working with Arcade Fire, official credit given is not the only way to see if someone worked together before because Arcade Fire and David Bowie worked together at Fashion Rocks in New York City. The first time the group worked with Bowie was during the live show of Fashion Rocks where they performed a duet. The album, *Reflektor*, is actually the second time they worked with David Bowie. **This paper will first examine the live show, Fashion Rocks, then the album *Reflektor*, and finally how the temporality of events does not necessarily reflect the credit given.**

ALL TOGETHER NOW

Putting it all together

As you can see a strong first paragraph should introduce your topic, your thesis and give a map. The paragraph is also filled with supporting information.

Keep this in mind when you are making your own introduction for your research paper.

Even though the album *Reflektor* is the first time David Bowie is given credit for working with Arcade Fire, official credit given is not the only way to see if someone worked together before because Arcade Fire and David Bowie worked together at Fashion Rocks in New York City. The first time the group worked with Bowie was during the live show of Fashion Rocks where they performed a duet. The album, *Reflektor*, is actually the second time they worked with David Bowie. This paper will first examine the live show, Fashion Rocks, then the album *Reflektor*, and finally how the temporality of events does not necessarily reflect the credit given.