



SOAPSTONE Paragraph Introduction

(1) In the non-fiction novel, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, the first person narrator, Rebecca Skloot (author), recounts the life and legacy of Henrietta Lacks and her involvement with her family. (2) In the age of the Jim Crow laws, an African American woman with cervical cancer named Henrietta Lacks produced a sampling of cells which would forever change the history of medical ethics and cell culture alike. (3) In a small Virginia town, the author explains Henrietta's life prior to, following, and after her experience with cervical cancer. (4) Due to her race and the lack of scientific knowledge of the times in which these actions took place Henrietta would never know of her contributions.

Format:

- (1) Introduce the piece of writing, the point of view, as well as the author.
- (2) Next, include a portion of the larger occasion you researched to give context to the novel and the reader.
- (3) Include your immediate occasion events (the main ideas and plot points of the novel).
- (4) This sentence is your thesis statement; make sure to keep it concise and explicitly explain the analysis you will further in the paragraph.

Tips:

- Don't oversummerize the events in the novel; the person reading your work would also be knowledgeable about the piece.
- Make sure your larger occasion relates to the piece, as this will significantly improve your introduction
- Try to keep your ideas in your introduction short and concise