**Introduction**

Below is a sample introduction paragraph. Watch the previous video for a short lecture on the three parts of an intro. The prompt asks you to "explain the theme of this story based on who Arnold Friend is." This means you are explaining how this character should be interpreted and how this interpretation creates the message of the story. Your thesis will directly define your response to this.

In her 1993 hit “Dreamlover,” Mariah Carey begs her “Dream lover [to] come rescue” her and “Take [her] anywhere [he] wants to baby now” (lines 11, 13).  The song gained popularity with teenagers who were similarly looking for a connection with  a dream lover, a dreamt-up knight in shining armor to take them away from reality. This idea has always been popular in songs and is one Joyce Carol Oates’ weaves into her story “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” wherein the protagonist receives a visit from a boy who is only “an idea, a feeling, mixed up with the urgent insistent pounding of the music” (Oates). While scholars have debated the true nature of Arnold Friend, his emergence from the music, his appearance, and Connie’s behavior before his arrival point to the fact that he is only a dream lover, a figure in Connie’s dream; Oates’ creation of the dream highlights the story’s message that [insert theme here].

**Topic Sentences**

Similarly, the topic sentences act as the thesis of each body paragraph. They will define the topic (proof of your interpretation of Friend) and connect it to the argument about the theme (what Oates is saying about something through this story). Below are sample topic sentences for the above introduction.

* Oates highlights the theme that [it is whatever you can prove it is] through Friend's connection to the music through his voice, his vocabulary, and his message.
* Oates’ message that [insert theme here] is developed through Connie’s dream visit by Arnold Friend.  His appearance, an amalgam of all the boys in Connie’s “trashy daydreams,” deteriorates as the dream becomes a nightmare, illustrating the reality of those daydreams: danger.
* The theme that [insert a lesson the story addresses] is created when Connie falls asleep "listen[ing] close]ly]" to the radio.