



Writing Your Introduction

UA Online Essay Writing Course

“My weapon is literature...”

- CHINUA ACHEBE



INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH

The purpose of the introduction paragraph is to grab the reader's attention and to introduce the reader to the topic of your essay. A good introduction paragraph includes the following:

- ✓ A Hook
- ✓ General Background Info
- ✓ Main Supporting Details
- ✓ Thesis Statement

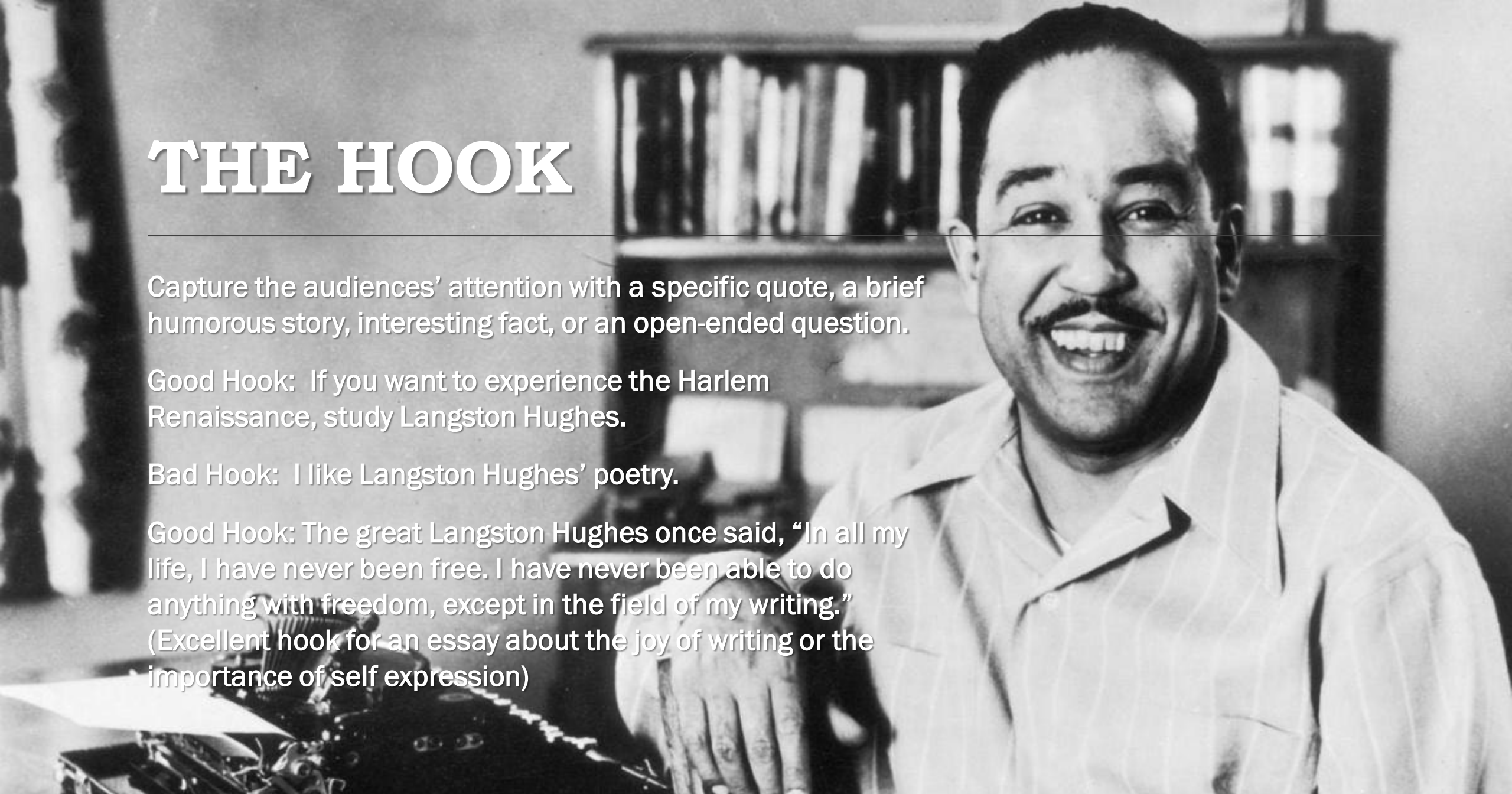
THE HOOK

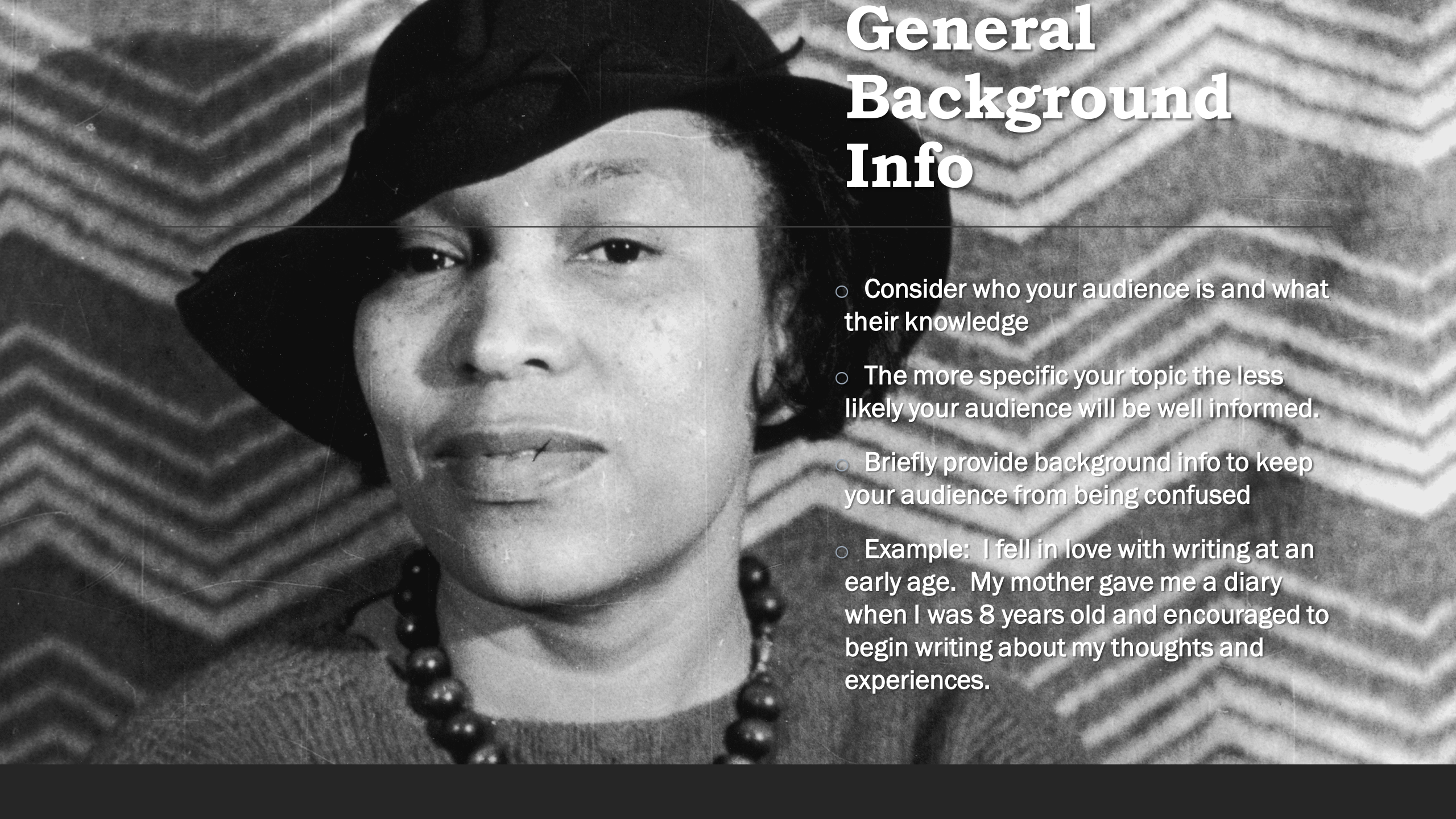
Capture the audiences' attention with a specific quote, a brief humorous story, interesting fact, or an open-ended question.

Good Hook: If you want to experience the Harlem Renaissance, study Langston Hughes.

Bad Hook: I like Langston Hughes' poetry.

Good Hook: The great Langston Hughes once said, "In all my life, I have never been free. I have never been able to do anything with freedom, except in the field of my writing."
(Excellent hook for an essay about the joy of writing or the importance of self expression)





General Background Info

- Consider who your audience is and what their knowledge
- The more specific your topic the less likely your audience will be well informed.
- Briefly provide background info to keep your audience from being confused
- Example: I fell in love with writing at an early age. My mother gave me a diary when I was 8 years old and encouraged to begin writing about my thoughts and experiences.

MAIN SUPPORTING DETAILS

- Consider the point you want to make in your essay
- Come up with your 3 strongest details to support that idea
- Each in its own sentence, state these details, as a way to preview what will come later in your essay
- Typically, your main supporting details in your introduction are the topics of each of your body paragraphs.
- Example: Writing allows me to express myself without judgement. When I'm writing, I feel free because there is not limit to my imagination and what I can create. Writing is also an excellent way to store and preserve information for future generations.



THESIS STATEMENT

- The most important part of your entire essay. This is the one sentence that you use to clearly state your overarching point.
- Your thesis statement should be one sentence long.
- Should be clear and complete enough to stand on its own.
- Your thesis ends the introductory paragraph, so it should be the last sentence before your body paragraphs.
- Be clear, concise, and make a strong statement: Writing is a powerful tool that can be used for self expression, expanding the imagination, and preserving information for generations to come.



PEEP MY PARAGRAPH...

The great Langston Hughes once said, “In all my life, I have never been free. I have never been able to do anything with freedom, except in the field of my writing”. I fell in love with writing at an early age. My mother gave me a diary when I was 8 years old and encouraged me to begin writing about my thoughts and experiences. Writing allows me to express myself without judgement. When I’m writing, I feel free because there is not limit to my imagination and what I can create. Writing is also an excellent way to store and preserve information for future generations. Writing allows us to control our own narratives, explore our imagination, and provide powerful information for generations to come.

