**Tribe Tasks Examples (Introduction Paragraphs)**

**Ruler Introduction**

Dearest citizens of the Fertile Crescent,

Do you remember hearing about a time when our fathers and grandfathers were nomads? How they had to wander from place to place, never really being too sure where they would get their next meal or if they would survive the night? Well, life is different now. Now that we are in city-states, we all have a role in making (insert civilization here) the best civilization in all of Mesopotamia! And how have we become the best civilization? Because of me and the decisions I make. Remember that you would be nothing, cowering to the (insert another civilization) without me, and the gods would destroy your homes and your crops. Let me remind you of why you need to trust our strong central government to protect you in this world!

G**eneral Introduction**

To the Hittite ruler:

You should fear the power of our civilization. Not only do we have the strongest army, but our men are the most skilled in all of Mesopotamia. Our scribes are knowledgeable in cuneiform and careful in recording how much grain eat person receives. Our artisans make the finest tapestries. And, as a proud general, I control the finest armies in the land. All should fear (insert civilization here) for our strength, our skill and our intelligence! If you don’t believe me, let me convince how we have the wisest, strongest, loyal and most intelligent people in the land.

**Scribe Introduction**

Citizens of (insert civilization here),

Imagine a world of chaos, where our government had no idea of who we have traded with in the past? Or think about if there was no one who recorded which people received your share of grain – think of all the riots that would happen if no one received their fair share. To all of you men, as a scribe myself, I can tell you that learning cuneiform and recording all that happens in our great and powerful civilization is a major reason for our success. Of course, our gods smile down upon us because of our great and mighty leader. Of course it will take lots of time and training to become a master of our written language, but just think about how much greater you can make (insert civilization here) by becoming a scribe!

**Artisan Introduction**

Adad,

It has come to my attention, old friend, that you are concerned about our wealth being wasted on the ziggurats, temples and irrigation projects. As a priest, I need to remind you what would happen if the great god Gula did not feel honored by our worship. Keeping the gods happy is my highest priority, but in order to do that, the gods must feel we are paying attention to them, sacrificing for them and giving them the highest praise. Otherwise, who knows what terrible things will happen to us? Also, how will have we scribes to keep the all-important records without schools to teach cuneiform? How would (insert civilization here) ever survive without irrigation throughout our land to keep our soil fertile? We would have no chance. Let me remind of how several of our public projects are so important.

**Remember to include…**

Introduction Paragraph:

* An interesting hook to get the interest of your reader
* An overview of what your speech/letter will be about

Body Paragraphs:

* A topic sentence, which gives an overview of what the paragraph is about
* Evidence from the reading and other relevant information
* Explaining your evidence through commentary
* Transition words/phrases between paragraphs (First, second, etc.)

Conclusion Paragraph:

* A review of key ideas mentioned in body paragraphs
* A final statement that is memorable to the reader

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**Editing Questions**

Add two transition words/phrases to the speech letter.

How could the author be more convincing in the opening paragraph?

Based on the background knowledge of your job, what additional evidence could the author use to make the essay stronger?