

Goals of an introduction:

- Presents general aspects of the topic first - Narrow your topic with more specific information in order to provide context - Provide a statement of purpose and rationale
- Does the piece below reach all the goals for an introduction?

Names: _____ Date: _____

Let’s Identify Features of an Introduction

The Harlem Renaissance: A Cultural Revolution

After World War I, the United States experienced an artistic movement called the Harlem Renaissance—otherwise known as the New Negro Movement or the Black Renaissance—that had roots in earlier periods. The postwar years were full of patriotism and a desire to return to normal life, but people also questioned American values. Historians note that, during the war, African Americans were promised freedom at home and fought in the military for freedom abroad (Early 9-10). Many African Americans in this period challenged racism, with Harlem at the center of the movement. People in New York were socially active, spreading their beliefs through journals and newspapers. African Americans had migrated from the segregated South during and after the war in pursuit of better jobs and more freedom (Loeffelholz 705). Furthermore, people moved from the Caribbean to Harlem, “where the blending of cultures helped foster a flowering of the arts” (“Harlem” par. 6). Although these artists lamented their mistreatment, they also saw in each other a connection. Much of the research on the Harlem Renaissance focuses on the movement’s leaders and the genres in which they worked, particularly nonfiction, poetry, novels, drama, and music—as well as how they blended genres.

What you and your partner noticed:
