Sample Introduction Paragraph

The following introduction paragraph comes from student writer Steve Crandall's essay about driver education. Note how effectively he gains the reader's attention by offering thought-provoking ideas about his subject. He also establishes a serious tone and sets down a basic organization for the rest of the writing in his thesis statement.

The results of today's driver education programs are visible every day, on every road. You can see them in the guy who squeals dangerously into traffic on a busy street or in the girl who nearly blows through a stop sign while talking on a cell phone. Many people say young drivers are to blame for the problems on our roads; but, if they are to be blamed, it is only because they were poorly prepared. Young drivers are products of driver education programs that are outdated, ineffective, and in need of improvement.