

## Sample Introduction—Option 1

“A lot of people want to see this idealized version of heroism, all pretty and perfect, and I’m not interested in playing the goody-goody hero at all”—Matthew Fox

Attention grabber  
--quote

(actor). In 1912, literary critic Philo M. Blake, Jr., gave an opinion in *The Methodist*

Introduction  
of literary  
criticism

*Review* that stated Jack London’s heroes are not true heroes because they are barbaric and savage; he believed that they lacked true culture. Barbarism means an absence of culture

or civilization, which often includes extreme cruelty or brutality. This statement is clearly misleading as it pertains to many of the protagonists in London’s writing.

Response to criticism

Applying this opinion to *The Call of the Wild*, Blake’s comment is unmistakably not

Focal statement

justified. To start, Buck is the main character in this story, a dog, who is stolen and sold north during the height of the Klondike gold rush. Buck must adapt from the civilizing

Plot  
Overview

influence of the Southland to become a survivor in the Northland. Buck shows traits of a hero through his commitment and love to his master when Buck wins a bet of pulling and

Support #1

immense load for John Thornton. Second, Buck shows heroism when he saves Thornton

Support #2

as he was flung into rapid water. Lastly, he demonstrates heroic character traits and

Support #3

leadership when he leads a sled team across the Yukon. In truth, Buck remains a hero

even though he rejects the traditions and culture of civilized life as he adapts to the harsh

Northland environment.

Thesis Statement