

Introductions

Introductions are used to **present information** to your reader that will help them understand the **foundation** of the argument you discuss throughout a paper. Like an introduction from person to person, introductions in a paper share details that will aid further understanding.



Characteristics of Effective Introductions



Introductions can vary across different kinds of writing and different subject matter, but some writing patterns that make for a solid introduction are:

- **Engage Readers:** Consider starting an introduction by asking the reader to engage directly with the material you present. For instance, ask a question or share a discussion/anecdote, describe a scenario, or provide an overview of an example.
- **Create Exigence:** Particularly for argumentative papers, explain the importance, value, or urgency of discussing the topic at large.
- **Provide Relevant Background Information:** Introductions should set up the paper as a whole. Think of what questions you are trying to answer or what argument you are making, and determine what is important to know before exploring your topic.
- **Set the Tone:** Readers should know what tone your paper will be in after reading your introduction. Consider your tone in relation to your audience and ask yourself: how should I speak to my readers? For example, in an academic paper, the tone may be formal.
- **Effective Thesis Statement:** Thesis statements should describe the topic you are discussing and how exactly you plan to prove your argument. See more about thesis statements here: <https://wrc.charlotte.edu/crafting-a-thesis-2/>

Tips for Writing



Consider **writing your introduction last**. The arguments/questions/research discussed throughout a paper can often change during the writing process, and as a result, the original introduction written may no longer be effective. After writing the paper in full, you can have a **better understanding of the argument** you are making to explain it.



Ask yourself questions about what you want your argument to be. Answers to such questions can inform your thesis, your body paragraphs, and the introduction paragraph as a whole.

Handout made by
Meghan Reilly