

Introductory Paragraphs

APSU Writing Center Handout

An introductory paragraph is the first part of your academic paper. Its job is to introduce your topic, explain why it's important, and give a preview of your argument. This helps the reader know what to expect in the rest of your essay.

Key Components of an Effective Introduction

Grab the reader's attention

- Start with something interesting to grab the reader's attention. This could be a question, fact, or a quote.

Overview/Motive

- Briefly explain the main idea of your paper and why it's important for the reader.

Thesis Statement

- Present the main argument or purpose of your paper. This is the most important part of your introduction.

Paragraph Structure

1. Introduction

- **Topic Overview:** Clearly state the topic and its relevance.
- **Scope and Boundaries:** Define the limits of the topic to provide focus.
- **Significance:** Explain why the topic is interesting or important to the reader.
- **Structure and Methodology**
- **Essay Structure:** Outline the main sections of the essay.

- Rationale for Order: Discuss the reasoning behind the sequence of sections (structural principle).
- Methodology: Describe how conclusions will be drawn from the information presented.

2. Thesis Statement

- Premise: Present the general claim about the topic.
- Conclusion: Summarize the anticipated implications or outcomes derived from the premise.

Things to remember

- Ensure your thesis is precise and clearly defines your main argument.
- Be specific about your topic and avoid broad, unfocused claims that may confuse the reader.
- Provide only relevant background information to keep the reader engaged and on topic.
- Maintain a formal academic tone throughout your introduction to set the appropriate style for your paper.

References

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- Foss, K. (2020, June 7). 10 Mistakes to Avoid in Writing the Introduction. Middle TN State University. <https://profkatiefoss.com/2020/06/07/10-mistakes-to-avoid-in-writing-the-introduction/>
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