

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions

A clear and concise introduction serves as a roadmap for your reader. It should **state your primary argument** or position on a topic, and then **outline the main points** you will discuss as you justify your position throughout the main body. Take your time when deciding how to word your introduction, and remember that your introduction:

- Is **the first thing your reader will see** – make sure the first impression is a good one!
- **Grab the reader's attention** – this will make them interested to read more.
- Always **clearly introduce your topic and explain what your essay will be about.**
- Should **sound authoritative** – you should know what you are talking about!
- Communicate the **relevance of your assignment** – persuade the reader of the importance of your paper and the reason why they should want to keep reading.

What to include in an introduction?

- ✓ **Use some relevant background information/ context** to give the reader an idea of your focus and argument.
- ✓ Provide a **clear thesis statement** which states your interpretation of the material.
- ✓ Give an **overview of the structure** of your essay (don't just list these things!)
- ✓ **Signpost for the reader** where you are going without directly stating each step.
- ✓ **Comment on what is to come** or sketch it out – don't leave the reader guessing as to what your point is.
- ✓ **Present your point of view and make a brief introductory argument** for it.

TOP TIP

Introductions may also provide some background information or context to give the reader an idea of the focus of your paper. However, you must ensure that this background information is relevant to your assignment.

What to avoid in an introduction?

- ✗ Do not repeat the essay title or question in the introduction.
- ✗ Do not use vague/irrelevant statements
- ✗ Avoid repetition of specific words/phrases.
- ✗ Stay clear of clichés.
- ✗ Do not go into unnecessary detail regarding your key arguments at this point
- touch on them briefly and save the detail for the main body.

Useful Links

- Ray Palin, 'Writing Introductory Paragraph', Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-GSUSbw1CQ>
- Using English for Academic Purposes For Students in Higher Education, 'Rhetorical functions in academic writing: Introducing', Available at: <http://www.uefap.com/writing/function/introd.htm>
- The Writing Center @ MSU, 'How to Write a Good Introduction', Available at: <https://writing.msu.edu/how-to-write-a-good-introduction/>
- University of New England, Academic Skills, 'Introduction paragraphs', Available at: <https://aso-resources.une.edu.au/academic-writing-course/paragraphs/introduction-paragraphs/>
- Harvard College Writing Center, 'Beginning the Academic Essay', Available at: <https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/beginning-academic-essay>
- Academic English UK, 'How to write an academic introduction', Available at: <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/write-academic-introduction>
- Ref-N-Write: Lookup and Learn, 'Academic Phrases for Writing Introduction Section of a Research Paper', Available at: <http://www.ref-n-write.com/trial/research-paper-sample-writing-introduction-section-academic-phrasebank-vocabulary/>

Other Relevant PDFs

- How to Write an Essay
- How to Build an Academic Argument
- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Sentence Structure
- Conclusions