



INTRODUCTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTIONS

What Is an Introduction?

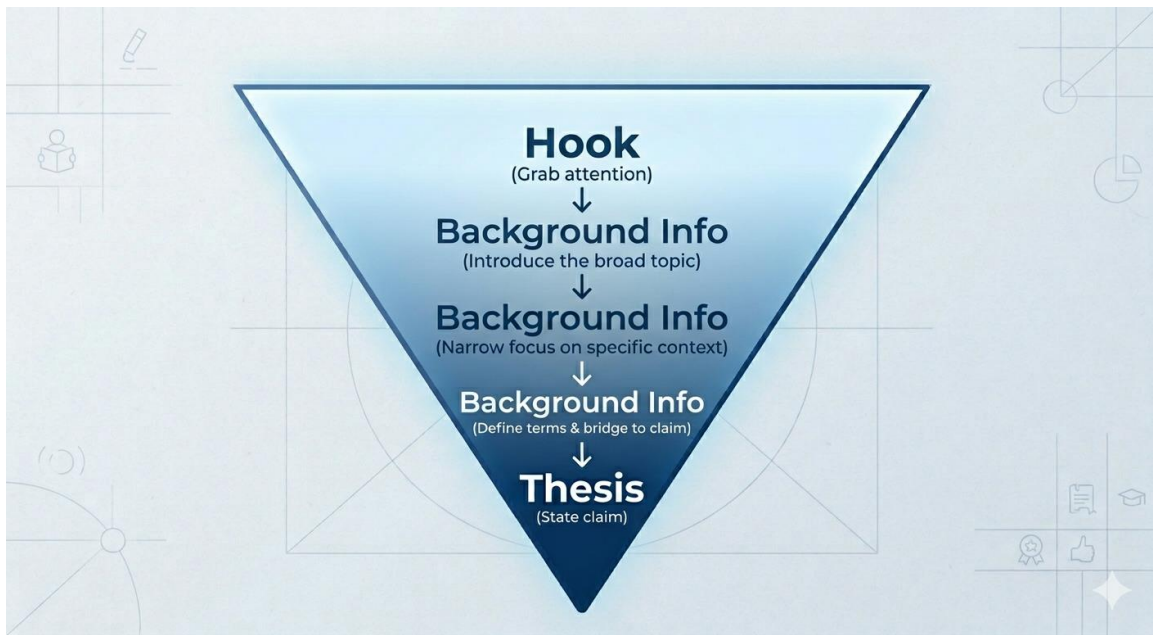
The introduction is the first paragraph of your essay. It introduces your topic and prepares the reader for your main idea.

Structure of an Introduction

- Hook (1–2 sentences)
- Background Information (3–4 sentences)
- Thesis Statement (1–2 sentences)

Intro = Narrowing

Think of the introduction as an upside-down triangle:



CONCLUSIONS

What Is a Conclusion?

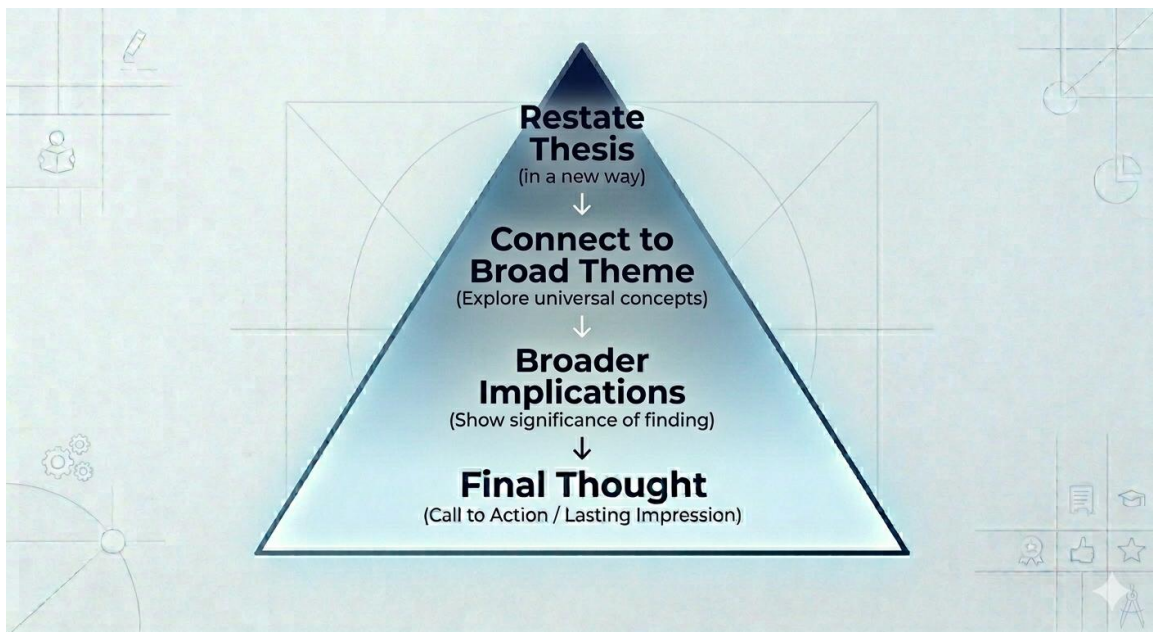
The conclusion is the final paragraph of your essay. It brings your ideas together and leaves the reader with a lasting impression.

Structure of a Conclusion

- Restate thesis in a new way (1–2 sentences)
- Show why it matters: connect your idea to a broader theme and show implications (2–3 sentences)
- Final thought: leave readers with a lasting impression, such as a call to action or broader idea (1–2 sentences)

Conclusion = Expanding

Think of the conclusion as a right-side-up triangle:



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Your introduction and conclusion should work together. The introduction presents your idea, and the conclusion reinforces and expands it.

Introduction:

Many college students struggle to manage their time effectively. Between classes, work, and personal responsibilities, it can be difficult to stay organized. In addition, some individuals enter college without strong time management skills. Adjusting to new academic expectations and increased independence can also feel overwhelming. First-year college students often struggle with time management because they must balance multiple

responsibilities, adapt to new academic expectations, and develop independent study habits.

Conclusion:

First-year college students often struggle with time management because they must balance multiple responsibilities, adjust to new academic expectations, and develop independent study habits. Improving time management skills can help students feel more organized and confident in their academic work. When students learn to manage their time effectively, they are better prepared for success in college and beyond. Developing these habits early can have a lasting impact on both academic and personal growth.

Final Takeaway

Think of your introduction as narrowing your topic and your conclusion as expanding it. This structure helps your essay feel clear, organized, and complete.