



INTRODUCTIONS

What Is an Introduction?

The introduction is the first paragraph of your essay. Its purpose is to prepare your reader for what they are about to read.

A strong introduction:

- gets your reader's attention
- introduces your topic
- clearly presents your main idea (thesis)

Why Is an Introduction Important?

Your introduction creates the first impression of your paper. A clear and focused introduction helps your reader understand your topic and want to continue reading. If your introduction is unclear or too broad, your reader may feel confused about your purpose.

Structure of an Introduction

Most introductions have three parts:

1. Hook (1-2 sentences)

The hook is the opening sentence. It should capture your reader's interest.

2. Background Information (3-4 sentences)

This section explains your topic and gives your reader the context they need.

3. Thesis Statement (1-2 sentences)

The thesis is usually the last sentence of the introduction. It tells your reader your main idea.

Example Introduction

Many college students struggle to manage their time effectively. Between classes, work, social life, and personal responsibilities, it can be difficult to stay organized. Additionally, a lot of students start college without strong time management skills. They may also feel overwhelmed as they adjust to new academic expectations and responsibilities. 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.

Types of Hooks

Question:

How do college students balance school, work, and personal life?

Fact or Statistic:

Many college students report getting less than seven hours of sleep per night.

Short Story or Scenario:

Imagine trying to finish homework after working a long shift and preparing for an exam the next day.

Bold Statement:

Time management is one of the biggest challenges college students face.

Tips for Writing Strong Introductions

- Start with a clear and engaging hook
- Avoid very general or overly broad statements
- Make sure your background information is relevant
- Place your thesis at the end of the paragraph

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Starting Too Broad:

Since the beginning of time, people have struggled with challenges.

Fix: Be more specific to your topic.

Missing Thesis:

An introduction without a clear thesis can confuse your reader.

Fix: Always include a clear final sentence with your main idea.

Too Much Detail:

Avoid putting too many details in your introduction. Save detailed explanations for body paragraphs.

Final Takeaway

Your introduction should guide your reader into your paper. By the end of the paragraph, your reader should understand your topic and your main idea.