

# Parts of an Essay: Introduction



## Purpose

What is an introduction?

Why is it important?

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An Introduction includes:

### **Elements**

- Hooks, Background, Thesis & Transitions.

### **Techniques**

- Personalization, Surprise, Relevance, Clarity.

### **Pitfalls to Avoid**

- Things that make your introduction seem bland, messy and unprofessional.

### **Common Tips:**

- Things that should be kept in mind when writing your introduction.
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## **Purpose of an Introduction**

### **1. Engagement:**

Initial engagement encourages people to continue reading or listening.

### **2. Contextualization:**

Provides context for the main content.

### **3. Tone:**

Sets the tone for the rest of the piece.

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## **Elements of an Introduction**

### **The Hook:**

- Types of hooks that can be used for the intro include: factual, statements, quotations, definition, etc.
- Make sure to keep the audience, tone, and purpose of the essay in mind when creating the hook.

### **Background:**

- Helps set the context for your topic.
- Gives readers of the audience a foundation for understanding the subject matter.

### **Thesis:**

- Defines the main point or argument of your work.
  - Asserts a specific claim or position on an issue.
  - Tells the reader or audience what to expect from the rest of your work. (serves as a guide for your reader and yourself as a writer)
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## **Types of Techniques**

### **1. Personalization:**

Share personal connection/experience relating to the topic.

### **2. Surprise/Intrigue:**

Unexpected facts/statements/statistics.

### **3. Relevance:**

Ensure that all of the elements have a purpose. Avoid including irrelevant information.

### **4. Clarity/Conciseness:**

Use clear and straightforward language. Avoid overly complex or convoluted sentences.

### **5. Structure:**

Provide a basic structure for your writing.

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## **Common Pitfalls to Avoid**

### **1. Clichés and Overused Openings**

“Once upon a time...” “In a galaxy far far away...”

### **2. Overly Broad or General Statements**

“Throughout history, people have always had dreams and aspirations.” “Don’t forget to floss.”

### **3. Excessive Background Information**

Too much information might make the reader get lost in simple content, as well as overwhelm them.

### **4. Jargon or Technical Language**

Only use it if it is appropriate.

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## **Practical Tips for Writing an Introduction**

**1.** Start the introduction after writing the body of the essay.

**2.** Revise and edit the introduction multiple times.

**3.** Seek feedback from peers or instructors.

**4.** Read and analyze great introductions in published essays for inspiration.

**5.** VISIT THE UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER (UWC)!!!