

HOW TO WRITE AN INTRODUCTION

..... a practical handout

Attention Grabber

The attention grabber, also known as a “hook”, is the first sentence that the reader will see, and its purpose is to grab the reader’s attention. A few common attention grabbers are:

- **A short, meaningful quote that relates to your topic.**
 - Think of a quote that interested you during your research. What kinds of sentences caught your attention?
- **An interesting statistic about your topic.**
 - Was there a fact or statistic that surprised you while you were researching?
- **A short, personal story related to your topic.**
 - This type of attention grabber is better for persuasive or personal essays. You could use a small, interesting story to help the reader understand where you are coming from.

Keep in mind that the goal of an attention grabber is to convince the reader that your paper is worth reading. An attention grabber plays a key part in the first part of an introduction and helps to serve as a bridge to get the reader’s mind focused on whatever they are thinking about in the outside world, to the topics introduced in the paper.

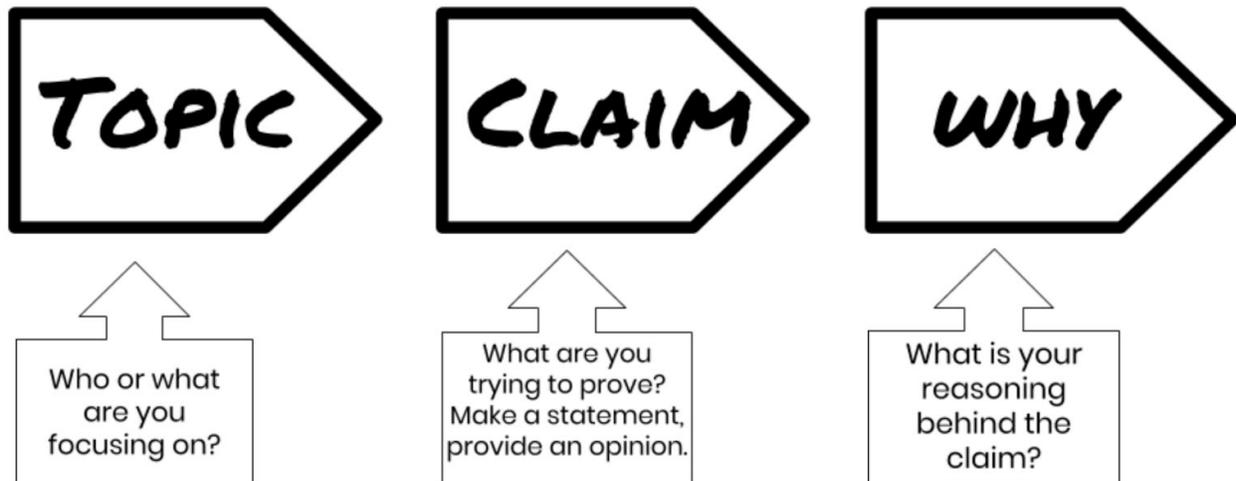
Introduce the Main Topic

The introduction is a perfect place to establish any relevant context for the information in your essay. You want the readers of your paper to have an idea about what you are going to spend the rest of the essay explaining. This may include things like:

- **Background information.**
 - Help ground the reader in the topic of your essay by providing relevant information such as facts, statistics, or ideas. This will help put the reader into the right mindset before getting into the heart of your paper so they can accept your thesis statement.
- **Key Terms.**
 - It can be helpful to identify terms that may not be common knowledge to the reader in your introduction. You do not need to identify all the terms used throughout your whole paper in the introduction, as those can be identified as they come up in your paper. Instead, focus on any words or ideas that are vital to the reader’s understanding of the thesis.

Thesis Statement

A thesis statement emphasizes the main idea of your paper. The thesis statement consists of 1-2 sentences that detail what the paper is about. It is the statement that strings together all of the ideas in your body paragraphs under a common theme.



For more information on how to write a thesis statement, please refer to our “How to Write a Thesis Statement” handout.

Tips & Tricks

- Make your first sentence something edgy and interesting. This is the reader’s entrance into the story; you want them to be drawn in right at the start.
- Think of your thesis as an answer to the main question of your paper. Think about what you are being asked as a writer, and write your thesis as a response to that.
- It helps to highlight and make notes on your writing prompt so you can visualize the main aspects of the prompt. You can use these key aspects to create your own question from the prompt.

References:

Maynar, C. (2017, September 27). How to Write a Good Introduction. Retrieved from <https://writing.msu.edu/how-to-write-a-good-introduction/>

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