



Introductions

First impressions are so important. How many times have you heard that? It is true that the first impression--whether it's a first meeting with a person or the first sentence of a paper--sets the stage for a lasting opinion.

The introductory paragraph of any paper, long or short, should start with a sentence that piques the interest of the readers. This is your only shot to being so clever that the reader can't stop reading your paper. Being clever and writing an introduction can be very difficult. Some good writers start with their introductions, but most great writers make a general attempt and then come back at the end of the assignment to write their great introduction last. Whether you write your introduction first or you write it last, just make sure you write a good one. Always, always begin your essay with an attention grabber!

Attention Grabbing Introductory Techniques and Examples

1. **Startling Information:** This information must be true and verifiable, and it doesn't need to be totally new to your readers. It could simply be a pertinent fact that explicitly illustrates the point you wish to make.

The pentagon has twice as many bathrooms as necessary. The famous government building was constructed in the 1940s when segregation laws required that separate bathrooms be installed for African descents.

Have a minute? Good. Because that may be all it takes to save the life of a child--your child. Accidents kill nearly 8000 children under the age of 15 each year. And for every fatality, 43 more children are admitted to the hospitals for treatment.

You may not realize it, but you share your birthdya with at least nine million other people. Nine million people were born on the same day you were, and nine million people could be celebrating their special day at the same time you ar

Things NOT to do in an introductory paragraph:

1. **Announce your intentions.** Do not flatly announce what you are going to do in an essay.

In this paper I will....

The purpose of this essay is to...

2. **Apologize.** Never suggest that you don't know what you're talking about or that you're not enough of an expert in this matter that your opinion would matter.

3. **Use a dictionary or encyclopedia definition.**

According to the Webster's dictionary....



Conclusions

The conclusion brings closure to the readers, summing up your points or providing a final perspective on your topic. The conclusion should review the main points without restating them exactly and describe your feelings about the topic. You should always tie your conclusion back to your introductory technique.

Fleming, Grace. "How to Write a Strong Introductory Paragraph." *How to Write an Introduction*. N.p., n.d. Web.

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N.p., n.d. Web.