

Writing Introductions

1. An introduction or introductory paragraph is the first paragraph in any multi-paragraph essay.
2. Successful introductions engage the reader and increase interest in the topic. The main parts of an introduction include the hook, the bridge, and the thesis.
3. The lead should be about three to five sentences. It is how you grab your reader's attention.
4. The bridge fills in the gap from the lead to the thesis and should be one to two sentences. The bridge is where to bring up the topic of your essay.
5. The thesis is the last sentence in your introductory paragraph. It is the sentence that tells exactly what your paper will be about.
6. That makes your entire paragraph about five to eight sentences.

What goes in my body paragraphs?



- A **topic sentence** that makes a claim to support the thesis.
- A **fact/example** that supports the topic sentence.
- An **explanation** of how the **fact/example** supports the claim.
- A **second fact/example** that supports the topic sentence **OR** an **extension of your first fact/example**.
- An **explanation** of the second **fact/example**.
- A **transition sentence** to smooth the way to the next claim.

Writing Conclusions

Conclusions serve **three** purposes:

1. *Restate* the thesis
 - a. Your restated thesis should not be word-for-word from the introductory paragraph, but rather rewritten
2. Briefly *summarize* the main points
 - a. Do NOT rewrite all your information, but rather paraphrase your topic sentences
3. Show the Reader the *significance* of your thesis:
 - a. What can readers take away from your essay?
 - b. Is there any action suggested for readers?
 - c. What's the solution to the problem in your essay?
 - d. Can readers connect to their own lives through your essay?