

Guide to writing INTRODUCTIONS

Like a good host, a good introduction invites the reader in and provides entertainment appropriate to the occasion. It attracts the reader's attention and sparks her interest; it sets up the purpose and the tone of the essay, and it leads smoothly into the writer's thesis.

Use this list to choose an appropriate introductory style for your essay.

1. Present a controversial or provocative question
2. Take a contradictory position on an accepted assumption or myth
3. Present striking or startling facts or statistics
4. Connect your topic to a current event or controversy
5. Tell a funny story that makes an important point
6. Set up a historical background for your topic
7. Use a quotation that relates directly to your topic
8. Provide a definition of a key concept