Introductions

Introductions are used to:

- Get the reader’s attention and make him or her want to continue reading
- Reveal the essay’s topic to the reader
- Provide necessary background information on the topic
- **State the Essay’s thesis**
- **State the thesis statement’s support**

At the end of the introduction, the reader should know **what** your paper is about and **why** he or she should care about it enough to continue reading.

**Strategies for Introductions**

- **Funnel or Inverted Pyramid**
  - Starts with a broad perspective on the topic and gradually moves toward a narrow perspective, with your thesis stated at the end.

- **Definition**
  - Beginning with a definition provides a starting point for your discussion of that definition, concept, or subject. Your discussion can lead to your thesis.

- **Narrative**
  - A story (or narrative) that relates to your paper’s topic and/or thesis can catch the reader’s attention.

- **Description**
  - Describing a situation, event, person, place, or thing can lead to your thesis about that situation, event, person, place, or thing

- **Asking Questions**
  - If you ask questions, you raise the reader’s curiosity. If you ask your research question, you can then give your thesis as your answer to that question.

- **Surprising/Shocking Information**
  - If you write, “More people die from drinking unsanitary water than from war,” the reader will want to know more about this surprising information. The reader’s curiosity will lead to your thesis.

- **Famous Quotation**
  - A well-known quote or saying can help you introduce your topic and/or thesis. The reader will identify with the quote or saying, and you will appear credible.

- **Referring to a Source**
  - Begin by referring to an important quote, character, event, or theme from another book or piece of literature. Your discussion should lead to your thesis.
  - This introduction is good for papers about literature (poems, short stories, novels, etc.) because your paper and thesis should be based on the literature.