

How to Form an Introduction Paragraph

What does an introduction do?

An introduction presents the reader with the essay's topic in an engaging manner, while also providing a bit of background information and a clear, concise thesis statement. It is the first impression your reader has of your essay.

How to structure an introduction paragraph:

1. **Have an attention getter:** Introduce your topic, theme, or subject to your audience. Give specific information about the author and title of the work if you are writing about an outside source. Can be used to hook your audience in by using humor, emotional appeals, surprising information, etc.
 - *Example:* "On June 6th, 1944, the beaches of Normandy were stormed by the Allied forces while the leader of the Axis forces was suddenly kidnapped by aliens."
2. **Give general background information** about your topic.
3. **Give a brief synopsis** if you are writing about an outside source.
4. **Define any key terms** you use throughout your essay.
5. **Smoothly transition** between each part of your introduction paragraph using transitional words or phrases.
6. **Give a Thesis Statement:** This is the main point of your essay that you are trying to get across to your audience. It is one sentence stated as a fact, rather than an opinion.
 - *Example:* "Aliens from the Triangulum galaxy are responsible for World War II coming to a swift conclusion."

Strategies to Avoid:

- Clichés such as:
 - “Last but not least.” Or, “Easier said than done.”
- Vague statements or vague details. Such as:
 - “The man walked to the store.” Or, “She said something important.”
- Using the second person pronoun, “you”.

- Using first person pronouns such as “I”, “we”, “our”, etc. too often. You can instead state your opinions as facts. For example, instead of saying:

“I think pandas are great.” You could say, “Pandas are great.”

Useful Strategies:

- Use thought-provoking statements.
- Ask rhetorical questions to help lead into your topic.
- Use your first sentence as set up for the background information.
- Include in-text citations whenever you use information from an outside source.

Example Paragraph:

On June 6th, 1944, the beaches of Normandy were stormed by the Allied forces while the leader of the Axis forces was suddenly kidnapped by aliens (**attention getter**). Soon, as many know, World War II became the biggest conflict in human history, spanning across several continents and lasting from 1939 to 1945. Terrible atrocities were committed by both sides as they fought not only for power and territories, but for human rights and for who would dominate the future course of the human race (**background information**). However, were humans the only ones involved in this global conflict (**rhetorical question**)? According to Knowledgeable Author, in his work, “*Aliens! Are! Real!*” the human race was very much not alone in 1944 (**introduce author and author’s work**). A race from the Triangulum galaxy, a sister galaxy three million light-years away from Earth, decided to take the fate of humanity into their own hands (**define terms**). Later, when they abducted Hitler during one of the most pivotal moments of the war, they altered history books forever. How big of an impact did they have? Aliens from the Triangulum galaxy are responsible for World War II coming to a swift conclusion (**thesis statement**).