



## Writing an Introduction

An **introduction** should capture the reader's attention and direct the reader's attention toward the topic. It should start generally and end specifically by presenting the thesis statement to end the paragraph.

### Ideas for Starting an Introduction

#### Startling Statement

Make a statement that catches the reader's attention.

Ex: *No one writes for pleasure anymore. That is, no one writes strictly for pleasure.*

#### Quotation

Cite an interesting quotation relating to the topic.

Ex: *John Fletcher once said, "Ask how to live? Write, write, write anything."*

#### Historical Allusion

Refer to a historical person, place, or thing.

Ex: *When Jane Austin was a child, her love of writing was sparked by...*

#### Literary Allusion

Refer to a person, place, or thing from a written work.

Ex: *Just as Laura found an escape in her glass menagerie, many find a haven in writing...*

#### Description

Paint a picture in the reader's mind.

Ex: *Imagine curling up in a big, reclining chair, covered with a cozy quilt, with a cup of hot chocolate on the table and a journal and pen nearby--this is what writing for pleasure is all about.*

#### Narrative

Tell a brief story.

Ex: *When Charles began to write for fun, he never imagined he would save someone's life.*

#### Analogy

Compare the topic with a similar topic.

Ex: *Writing for pleasure is like going for a swim; one may never know how good it feels until one jumps right into it.*

#### Understatement

Make an ordinary statement that catches attention because of its extreme plainness.

Ex: *Writing is writing, and nothing more.*

#### Statistics

Quote a statistic relating to the topic.

Ex: *According to a recent survey, 87% of the people polled claimed they enjoyed creative writing but have never considered it a hobby.*

**Claim**

Asserting a statement as fact, preferably something unexpected.

Ex: *An average house cat gains more pleasure from writing than most people do. That is, it gains pleasure from lying in the middle of whatever its owner is trying to write.*

The Introductory paragraph should start out very generally, and then become gradually more specific, finally ending with the thesis statement. For advanced papers, the introduction may last longer than a paragraph; if this is the case, simply make sure that the thesis statement is placed at the very end of the introduction.

