

## WRITING INTRODUCTIONS

Generally, introductions must contain both a thesis and a preview of your supporting ideas (unless you are writing a non-formulaic essay such as a narrative). They should be as long and developed as your body paragraphs. However, they may be organized in different ways.

Here are some strategies for writing introductions:

1. The funnel. Go from general information about your topic to a specific thesis.
2. Incorporate your supporting ideas into sentences before your thesis.
3. Incorporate your supporting ideas into sentences after your thesis.
4. Begin with an anecdote (a small story on your essay topic).
5. Ask a question.
6. Use a vivid quotation.
7. Create a visual image that represents your subject.
8. Offer a surprising statistic or other fact.
9. Provide background.
10. Outline the argument your thesis refutes.
11. Make a historical comparison or contrast.
12. Outline a problem or dilemma.
13. Define a word central to your subject.