

# **The Essay:** Introductory Paragraphs

An introductory paragraph includes:

1. Attention getter

2. Bridge or transition sentences

3. Thesis statement (always at the end)

## Ways to Start the Essay

Strategy: Provide some interesting background about the topic in the form of a general statement.

Example: Since the dawn of civilization, human beings have been fascinated by the mysteries of the universe, leading to remarkable advancements in space exploration.

## Ways to Start the Essay

Strategy: Use a thought-provoking quotation.

Example: Albert Einstein once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world..."

# Ways to Start the Essay

Strategy: Ask a question about your topic.

Example: How would our world look today if the internet had never been invented?

# Ways to Start the Essay

Strategy: State a surprising fact or a puzzling statement

Example: Octopuses have three hearts and blue blood.

## Ways to Start the Essay

Strategy: Start with a short story (anecdote).

Example: Little Susie looked out her window, only to see her precious gnome, Willard, was being stolen.

## Transition Sentences

**Purpose:** Connect attention-getting sentence(s) to the thesis statement.

**Common Method:** Explain the importance of the topic.

**Length:** Typically a couple of sentences.



## Thesis Statement

This is the most important sentence in the essay.

It contains your opinion on the topic and the main idea in each body paragraph.

# Thesis Creation Example

**Topic:** If someone won the lottery and was instructed to travel anywhere in the world, where should they go and why?

**Paragraph Points:**

1. People should travel to France because French food is great.
2. Paris is one of the most beautiful cities in the world.
3. People should learn a second language and French is widely spoken.

**Thesis Statement:** If a person won the lottery and could travel anywhere in the world, they should travel to France because French food tastes great, Paris is a beautiful city, and learning French would benefit anyone.

# Introductory Paragraph Example

Did you know that octopuses have three hearts and blue blood? Understanding the unique biology of marine creatures is crucial, as it offers insights into the complexity and resilience of ocean ecosystems. Marine biology is an essential field of study due to its contributions to environmental awareness, its role in advancing scientific research, and its importance in preserving ocean health.