

Introduction Template

Hook/Opening Sentence

Choose ONE approach:

☐ Question:

☐ Surprising Fact/Statistic:

☐ Relevant Quote:

☐ Vivid Description/Scenario:

☐ Bold Statement:

Context & Background (2-3 sentences)

Provide necessary background information. What does the reader need to know?

General context about the topic:

Why is this topic important or relevant?

What's the current situation or debate?

Narrow Your Focus (1-2 sentences)

Transition from broad topic to your specific focus:

While _____,

this paper will focus specifically on _____

Thesis Statement

Your main argument or claim (1-2 sentences):

Preview of Main Points (Optional)

Briefly outline what your paper will cover:

This essay will examine _____

by analyzing _____, exploring _____,

and considering _____.

Complete Introduction Example

Template Filled In:

[HOOK] Have you ever wondered why some students succeed while others struggle despite similar abilities? [CONTEXT] Academic success depends on multiple factors beyond intelligence, including study habits, motivation, and time management. Research shows that students who develop effective learning strategies perform significantly better than those who rely solely on natural ability. [NARROW FOCUS] While many factors contribute to academic achievement, study habits play a particularly crucial role in determining student outcomes. [THESIS] Developing consistent, evidence-based study habits is the single most important factor in academic success because it enhances retention, builds discipline, and creates sustainable learning patterns. [PREVIEW] This paper will examine the relationship between study habits and academic performance by analyzing cognitive research on memory retention, exploring successful study techniques, and considering practical strategies for habit formation.

Self-Check Questions

Before finalizing your introduction, ask yourself:

- ☐ Does my hook grab attention without being too dramatic?
 - ☐ Have I provided enough context for readers unfamiliar with the topic?
 - ☐ Is my focus clearly narrowed to my specific argument?
 - ☐ Is my thesis statement specific, arguable, and clear?
 - ☐ Does my introduction flow logically from general to specific?
 - ☐ Is my introduction 5-8 sentences (not too long)?
 - ☐ Have I avoided phrases like “In this essay, I will...”?
 - ☐ Does everything in the introduction connect to my main argument?
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Hook Options Guide

Question: Engages reader directly - *Example: “What makes a leader truly effective?”*

Statistic: Provides concrete evidence - *Example: “Over 60% of college students report experiencing academic burnout.”*

Quote: Establishes authority/perspective - *Example: “As Maya Angelou once said, ‘There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.’”*

Scenario: Creates vivid imagery - *Example: “Imagine walking into a classroom where every student is actively engaged and excited to learn.”*

Bold Statement: Makes a strong claim - *Example: “Traditional education is failing to prepare students for the modern workforce.”*

Common Introduction Mistakes to Avoid

❑ Starting with “Since the dawn of time...” or overly broad statements ❑ Using dictionary definitions ❑ Making your introduction too long (more than 8-10 sentences) ❑ Announcing your intentions: “In this essay, I will discuss...” ❑ Including specific evidence or examples (save for body paragraphs) ❑ Starting with “I believe” or “In my opinion” ❑ Writing your introduction before understanding your argument