

# Writing an Introduction

**DIRECTIONS:** Now that you are familiar with the basics of plagiarism, using citations, and formatting your work, it is time to begin writing your introductory paragraph. For many, writing an introduction can be a challenge. Follow these simple steps to create an attention-grabbing introduction.

Your introduction should prepare readers for your essay by giving them the information they need to follow your discussion. For this reason, your introduction should include a thesis statement that presents the main idea of your essay, which usually appears at the end of the introductory paragraph.

## Here are some ways to begin your introduction:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Begin with a general statement to introduce your topic.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Begin with a contradiction: start with a statement recognizing an opinion or approach that is opposite from the one you plan to take in your essay.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Begin with a short anecdote or narrative: if your story is interesting, it will draw readers in immediately. \*\*\*This is NOT a story about your own life... This is something from a news article or a well-known event. REMEMBER: using the first person is not an option for this essay.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Begin with an interesting fact or statistic: make sure this is powerful, as you will include factual information in your essay.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Begin with a definition of a term that is important to your essay. You can either use a literal, dictionary definition or you can create your own definition based on the information you have researched.

## Use the following checklist as you complete your introduction:

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. **A Powerful Beginning:** Begin with something that will catch your reader's attention (without confusing him/her). Your audience should be hooked at this point—they should want to continue reading.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. **Purpose:** Make it evident that your essay is to inform the audience of your topic. Why should they care about your topic?

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. **Scope:** Briefly discuss the components you plan to discuss in your paper.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. **Background Information:** Pretend as though the audience is not familiar with any aspect of your topic. What information is absolutely essential for them to know prior to reading the rest of your essay?

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. State your **thesis statement** or main purpose for writing your essay.

## BRAINSTORM YOUR INTRODUCTION

Directions: Using the space below, draft out how you would like your introduction to look.

This image shows a completely blank white rectangular area. It is surrounded by a thin black border, which appears to be the edge of a scanned document or a frame. There are no markings, text, or illustrations on the page itself.

Students who prefer a more hands-on, interactive approach to learning are considered kinesthetic learners. Formally, a kinesthetic learner can be defined as, “a learning style that requires a student to manipulate or touch material to learn. Kinesthetic-tactile techniques are used in combination with visual and/or auditory study techniques, producing multi-sensory learning” (Houghton). Furthermore, it is apparent to educators that this style of learner cannot learn as well by simply listening to a lecture or watching a demonstration; instead, the student prefers to be actively engaged and to learn by doing the task themselves. Typically, activities such as group work, drama presentation, recreational games, and project-based assessments will peak a kinesthetic learner’s interest (Farwell). In a recent study conducted by Jarred Prince, it was discovered that on average, 30% of students are considered kinesthetic learners (Prince). Knowing this, teachers are able to develop a variety of interactive lesson plans that will allow kinesthetic learners to express their creativity by performing the task at hand. Ultimately, this style of learning is most successful when the student and the teacher both understand that in order to sustain their attention; the activities must reach the student on a more tactile level.

## Take a Closer Look at the **Example**:

Directions: Take a closer look at the body paragraph example above and answer the following questions prior to formatting your own.

- 1.) What did the author use as their topic sentence?
- 2.) How many direct quotes did the author use?
- 3.) How many paraphrased statements did the author use?
- 4.) How many sources did the author use?
- 5.) What point of view did the author use? Why is this important?
- 6.) What transition statement was used to introduce the direct quote?
- 7.) How does the author’s choice to use multiple sources make the essay more credible and scholarly? **\*\*This technique is called synthesizing.**
- 8.) What does it mean to synthesize information?
- 9.) Using the example, begin brainstorming your first body paragraph on the next page.

## BUILDING YOUR BODY PARAGRAPHS (#1 required)

Topic Sentence: 1 sentence	
Basic Information: 2-3 sentences	
Direct quote or paraphrased information: 2-3 sentences with transition statements & in-text citations	
Follow-up sentences: 2-3 sentences explaining the importance of the above quotes.	
Concluding sentence: 1-2 sentences	

## BUILDING YOUR BODY PARAGRAPHS (#2 required)

Topic Sentence: 1 sentence	
Basic Information: 2-3 sentences	
Direct quote or paraphrased information: 2-3 sentences with transition statements & in-text citations	
Follow up sentences: 2-3 sentences explaining the importance of the above quotes.	
Concluding sentence: 1-2 sentences	

## BUILDING YOUR BODY PARAGRAPHS (#3 required)

Topic Sentence: 1 sentence	
Basic Information: 2-3 sentences	
Direct quote or paraphrased information: 2-3 sentences with transition statements & in-text citations	
Follow-up sentences: 2-3 sentences explaining the importance of the above quotes.	
Concluding sentence: 1-2 sentences	

## BUILDING YOUR BODY PARAGRAPHS (#4)

Topic Sentence: 1 sentence	
Basic Information: 2-3 sentences	
Direct quote or paraphrased information: 2-3 sentences with transition statements & in-text citations	
Follow up sentences: 2-3 sentences explaining the importance of the above quotes.	
Concluding sentence: 1-2 sentences	

## BUILDING YOUR BODY PARAGRAPHS (#5)

Topic Sentence: 1 sentence	
Basic Information: 2-3 sentences	
Direct quote or paraphrased information: 2-3 sentences with transition statements & in-text citations	
Follow-up sentences: 2-3 sentences explaining the importance of the above quotes.	
Concluding sentence: 1-2 sentences	



# TRANSITION STATEMENTS

Using transition statements that sound professional and intelligent will add credibility to your work.

**Here's a list of transition statements:**

- ✓ First, second, third...
- ✓ Not only \_\_\_\_\_, but also \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Research shows...
- ✓ Studies prove...
- ✓ It is evident that...
- ✓ In addition...
- ✓ Furthermore...
- ✓ Moreover...
- ✓ Comparatively...
- ✓ Equally important...
- ✓ To conclude...
- ✓ As previously stated...
- ✓ To summarize...
- ✓ Overall...
- ✓ Given these points...
- ✓ For example...
- ✓ For instance...
- ✓ Ultimately...
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ (author's name) states...
- ✓ Therefore...
- ✓ However...
- ✓ Unfortunately...
- ✓ Fortunately...
- ✓ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Elaborative Techniques

Sample detail: Pythons are an invasive species causing many problems.

Type of Elaboration	Example
<b>Example</b> - provide more specific information about the detail to illustrate the detail	For instance, pythons have reduced several populations of small mammals like the raccoon and eradicated animals like the marsh rabbit.
<b>Definition</b> – provide meaning of an unfamiliar word or concept	An <b>invasive species</b> is an organism that causes ecological or economic harm in a new environment where it is not native.
<b>Statistic &amp; Data</b> – the numbers or data that support the detail	According to <a href="#">“How Have Invasive Pythons Impacted Florida’s Ecosystem.”</a> a study in 2012 showed an 87.5% drop in the population of bobcats since 1997 as a result of pythons inhabiting Everglades National Park.
<b>Quote or Citation</b> – using the exact words of a text	In the text <a href="#">“How Have Invasive Pythons Impacted Florida’s Ecosystem.”</a> “Non-native Burmese pythons have established a breeding population in South Florida and are one of the most concerning invasive species in Everglades National Park.”
<b>Paraphrase</b> – use your own words to summarize a portion of a text	The USGS presented <a href="#">a study</a> in 2012 showing an 87.5% drop in the population of bobcats since 1997 as a result of pythons inhabiting the Everglades National Park.
<b>Facts</b> - give specific information that can be proven	As an invasive species in the United States, Burmese pythons are widely distributed in Everglades National Park.
<b>Description</b> – a way to create vivid images for the reader	An apex predator, Burmese pythons are wreaking havoc on the ecosystem with their ability to consume prey larger than themselves due to their unhinged jaw.
<b>Explanation</b> - explain the detail by thinking about who, what, where, how, why	Pythons have shown the ability to adapt to cooler climates, causing some scientists to fear that they might spread to regions north of the Everglades even making it as far as Georgia.
<b>Personal Anecdote</b> – a short story that makes a point	When visiting Everglades National Park last summer, I viewed a film showing a python eating even an alligator. The park ranger said that the python is an eating machine leaving few animals off its menu, including bobcat, deer, and alligator.

# Writing Your Conclusion

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the following guidelines to write the concluding paragraph of your essay. The purpose of your conclusion is to reflect on what you've researched, summarize the main points, and focus on three/four specific points you want your audience to take with them.

## **Your conclusion should:**

- ✓ Be 6-8 sentences
- ✓ Include a brief summary of your essay's main points
- ✓ NOT include any NEW information (should all be a reflection on what has already been stated)
- ✓ Focus on three of the MAIN points of your essay. Ask yourself what you want your readers to take with them. What are the overarching themes of your essay?
- ✓ Restate the main idea of your essay, or your thesis statement

## Brainstorm Your Conclusion

Topic Sentence	
Summary of main points	
3 overarching themes	
Restate /reword your thesis	

# Creating Your References Page

Using the source sheets that you created in section 3 of this packet, create your References page (as demonstrated below). Use SCRIBBR APA 7th Edition

- ✓ Your References page should be in alphabetical order
- ✓ Each of your in-text citations should correlate with a source on your References page.
- ✓ Your References page should be properly cited in APA format.

## References

Archyde. (2022, March 26). *Plastic in human blood; Microplastic particles in the blood of 77% of people*. Archyde.

<https://www.archyde.com/plastic-in-human-blood-microplastic-particles-in-the-blood-of-77-of-people/>

Brahney, J. (2020, June 25). Opinion | You're Probably Inhaling Microplastics Right Now. *The New York Times*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/25/opinion/plastic-air-pollution.html?searchResultPosition=1>

Carpenter, K. G. (2023, February 6). *Microplastic pollution aids viruses and prolongs their infectivity*. Science News Explores.

<https://www.snexplores.org/article/microplastic-pollution-aids-infectious-viruses>

Davis, A. L. (2022, September 14). How to make recyclable plastics out of CO2 to slow climate change. *Science News*.

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/plastic-carbon-dioxide-capture-recycling-climate-change>

Down To Earth. (2022, March 25). *Microplastics detected in human blood for the very first time* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxEQkVPBJjQ>

# Peer Review & Reflection

Directions: Use the following checklist to peer-edit your classmate's essay.

## **Development & Support:**

- ✓ Underline any sentence fragments and/or run-on sentences.
- ✓ Mark any paragraph in which the main idea is not clearly developed.
- ✓ Check to make sure there is a clear connection between all support/evidence.
- ✓ Read the paper out loud. Do the introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion flow together?

## **Punctuation Errors/Organization:**

- ✓ Find and mark any comma splices.
- ✓ Look for lack of commas/missing periods at the end of sentences.
- ✓ After reading the essay out loud, add any necessary punctuation marks that you feel will help improve the quality of the essay.
- ✓ Put a star near any ineffective transitions.
- ✓ Put a star next to any paragraph that does not focus on a single idea.

## **Citing Work:**

- ✓ Do they have enough sources? Are they in APA format?
  - o Alphabetical order
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> line of each source should be indent ½ inch.
  - o Font should be Times New Roman, Size 12
  - o Title should be—Works Cited—centered at the top of the page.
- ✓ Make sure each in-text citation matches with a source on the References page.
- ✓ Mark any direct quote or paraphrased statement that does not have an in-text citation with it.

## **Spelling Errors:**

- ✓ Make sure all words are spelled correctly.
  - o Use a dictionary if you are unsure of a word.
- ✓ Make sure all proper nouns are capitalized.
- ✓ Make sure that words that should not be capitalized are lowercase.
- ✓ Mark any word that you feel does not make sense in the sentence or paragraph.

## **First Person VS Third Person:**

- ✓ Mark any instance of 1<sup>st</sup> person
  - o I, me, my,
- ✓ Replace “I, me, my, you, your” with:
  - o One, he, him, she, her it, they, their, people, person, etc.
  - o OR erase it completely
- ✓ Eliminate any cliché phrases. EX: “This paragraph will be about...”

# REFLECTION

Fill out the graphic organizer as you reflect on your rough draft and final draft.

## **ROUGH DRAFT REFLECTION**

What changes do you need to make prior to completing your final?	
What feedback did you receive from your peers? What will you do to make the corrections?	
What is the most challenging part? What part do you think is the easiest?	

## **FINAL DRAFT REFLECTION**

After receiving feedback on your essay, what part do you feel you did the best on?	
After receiving feedback on your essay, what part do you feel you could still improve on?	
What are THREE (3) things you learned from your research?	

# FINAL RUBRIC

CATEGORY	10-8	7-5	4-3	2-0
Organization	Information is very organized with well-constructed paragraphs and subheadings.	Information is organized with well-constructed paragraphs.	Information is organized, but paragraphs are not well-constructed.	The information appears to be disorganized. 8)
Quality of Information	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1-2 supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples are given.	Information has little or nothing to do with the main topic.
Sources	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented in the desired format.	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format.	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but many are not in the desired format.	Some sources are not accurately documented.
Mechanics	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Almost no grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors	A few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.
Paragraph Construction	All paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, and concluding sentence.	Most paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, and concluding sentence.	Paragraphs included related information but were typically not constructed well.	Paragraphing structure was not clear and sentences were not typically related within the paragraphs.

Total Points:

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Teacher Comments:

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