

Types of introductions

1. The Funnel

In a funnel introduction, the first sentence offers a broad, general statement about the subject. Then, sentence by sentence, narrow the subject down to a specific point of view or argument (the thesis).

Example

The life of a housecat is not always the safest of situations. In fact, domesticated cats that play outside are faced with a number of problems that are often overlooked. Most of these problems concern other neighbourhood animals, which is not surprising given that the average housecat spends 40 to 60 hours outside per week. The most serious threat to the health of the housecat is the stray dog.

2. The turnabout

This type of introduction opens with a few sentences summarizing a point of view that is actually the opposite of the writer's own point of view. By the end of the introduction, the writer makes a complete turnabout and presents his or her idea as the opposite of what he or she started with.

Example

Before I came to college, I was told not to expect my professors to care much about me or my work; indeed, I was told that I would be lucky if any of them even knew my name! but when I came to the university, I soon learned that these generalizations were too broad. Not all teachers are the same. In fact, I have found that most of the professors here at State fall into three categories: the positive teachers, the neutral teachers, and the negative teachers.

3. The Dramatic Entrance

In the dramatic entrance, the writer starts his essay with a narrative, an anecdote, or a dramatic example.

Example

First, the window began to rattle. Then the floor beneath our feet began to move. A moment later, the light fixture above the dining table began to swing back and forth, and we heard glass breaking, walls cracking, and books and other objects falling to the floor. We had just experienced a 6.1 earthquake. It had lasted less than a minute, but the damage was terrible. This earthquake is clear to our family that we needed to prepare better for the next one.

4. The Relevant Quotation

An essay with this type of introduction opens with a quotation by an authority on the topic or by someone else who says something relevant to what is discussed in the essay. You will also see writers begin with a famous quotation and then work that into their topic.

Example

No two people are exactly alike, and my two older brothers, Nhan and Hung, are no exceptions. When I think of them, I think of Rudyard Kipling's words "East is East, West is West, Never the twain shall meet". Even though they have the same parents, their considerable differences in looks, personality, and attitude toward life reflect the differences between Eastern and Western cultures.

Activity

Read the following introductions and decide about the type of each.

The sun was setting over the city skyline as I walked through the bustling streets, surrounded by the sounds of honking cars and chattering pedestrians. Suddenly, I heard a loud crash and turned to see a car careening out of control, heading straight towards a group of people on the sidewalk. In that moment, I realized the importance of safe driving and the devastating consequences that can result from reckless behaviour. In this essay, I will explore the ways in which safe driving can save lives and argue that it is crucial for all drivers to take responsibility for their actions on the road.

Many people assume that learning to scuba is quite easy. They imagine that the process consists of little more than strapping on a mask and fins, wading out into an ocean, and paddling gracefully. However, learning to scuba requires extensive training, long hours of practice, and excellent physical condition. In this essay, I will explore the challenges of learning to scuba and argue that it is a difficult and demanding sport that requires dedication and hard work.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." These words, spoken by Nelson Mandela, highlight the importance of education in shaping the future of our world. In this essay, I will explore the ways in which education can be used to promote social change and argue that it is a crucial tool for creating a more just and equitable society.

A lot of people believe that social media is a waste of time and a distraction from more important things. However, the truth is that social media can be a powerful tool for connecting with others, building relationships, and even advancing your career. In this essay, I will explore

the ways in which social media can be used to create meaningful connections and argue that it is a valuable tool for anyone looking to build a strong personal or professional network.

Characteristics of Effective and Ineffective Thesis Statements

Characteristics of Effective Thesis Statements	Characteristics of Ineffective Thesis Statements
Clear language	<u>should not take the form of a question.</u> - To this point, what are the advantages of credit cards? - To this point, credit cards are convenient to use for two main reasons
Contestable statement (It should be a debatable statement, not a fact.)	<u>should not state a fact.</u> - iPods are devices that transport and play music. - iPods are the best source of transporting and playing music not only because they are compact and user-friendly but also because they store large amount of music.
Concentrated statement (It should be specific; not too broad and not too narrow.)	<u>should not be a quote.</u> - Because “Time is money” people should consider the importance of time. Proper time management is a skill that can change people’s life on a fundamental basis for the better
Complex statement (It should indicate the point of the discussion that can be explained with supporting points.)	<u>should not be an announcement.</u> - The subject of this essay is the rising crime rate in Algeria / I am going to talk about the rising crime rate in Algeria / The rising crime rate in Algeria is the main topic of this essay. - The recent increase in the rate of crime in Algeria is the result of political, social, and economic factors
Compelling statement (It should attract the reader’s attention.)	<u>should not state two sides of an argument equally.</u> - Studying in groups has advantages and disadvantages. - Though there are some disadvantages, studying in groups can help students do research in many ways.
Connected statement. (It should relate to the prompt of the essay.)	<u>should not express more than one topic / controlling idea.</u> - Radioactive waste and the burning of fossil oil have several destructive effects on people, plants and our environment in general. (In this example there exist two topics) - Radioactive waste from nuclear power has several destructive effects on people, plants, and our environment in general.

<p>should state a single topic and one precise thought (controlling idea) about it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radioactive waste from nuclear power has several destructive effects on people, plants, and our environment in general. 	<p><u>should not be a general statement.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men and women are very different. - Men and women are treated differently at work for three main reasons.
<p>may list the supporting points or mention the method of organisation to indicate how the controlling idea of the essay will be proved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smoking is unhealthy because it can cause several serious diseases. -Smoking is unhealthy because it can cause narrowing of the arteries, heart problems, and lung cancer 	<p><u>Should not be a narrow statement.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Hong Kong, number eight is lucky. - There are many superstitious beliefs about numbers around the world

Types of thesis statement

- **Direct:**

- a. Native Americans have made many valuable contributions to modern U.S. culture, particularly in the areas of language, art, food, and government.
- b. Young people in my culture have less freedom than young people in the United States not only in their choice of lifestyle but also in their choice of careers.

- **Indirect: (e.g., chronological order, comparison/contrast, cause/effect)**

- a. Native Americans have made many valuable contributions to modern U.S. culture.
- b. The large movement of people from rural to urban areas has major effects on cities.