

# How to Write an Essay

## Introduction

# This presentation will review the following:

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- A definition for an essay's introduction
- The parts of an essay's introduction
- The role of each part of an essay's introduction
- Tips for how to write the parts of an essay's introduction

# Materials Needed:

- Have a method for taking note handy
- Use the note-taking method that is best for you.
- Your professor will not request a copy of your notes.



# What is an essay's introduction?

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- An essay's introduction is usually a single paragraph that introduces the reader to the essay's subject matter.

# What does an essay's Introduction do ?

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- The introduction does the following:
  - Grabs the reader's attention
  - Introduces the reader to the essay's topic
  - Announces the essay's thesis

# What are the parts of an essay's introduction?

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- Grabber sentences
- Transitional sentences
- Thesis statement

Each part of the essay's introduction has an important role.

# What is an essay's grabber?

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- The grabber sentence or sentences are the first few sentences in the essay's introduction.



# What is an essay's grabber?

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- The grabber sentence or sentences are meant to “grab” the reader’s attention by saying something interesting that makes the reader want to read the essay.

# Here is an example of a grabber:

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- An essay about being bitten by a shark might have the following grabber sentence:
  - As I felt the shark's razor teeth cut through my arm's flesh and bone, I had one thought as I lost consciousness: I was going to die.

# What are the transitional sentences?

- The transitional sentences are meant to “transition” the reader from the grabber sentences to the essay’s thesis statement.
- An essay about being bitten by a shark that begins with a quotation from Abraham Lincoln will need transitional sentences to help the reader see the connection between the grabber sentences and the thesis statement.
- Transitional sentences are optional because essays that demonstrate a clear link between the grabber sentences and the thesis statement may not need a transition.

# What is an essay's thesis statement?

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- The final part of the essay's introduction is the thesis statement.

# What is an essay's thesis statement?

- The thesis statement is a single sentence that does the following:
  - The thesis statement tells the reader what the essay is about.
  - The thesis statement shares the writer's feelings, point of view or opinion about the topic.
- The thesis statement should make the reader want to read the essay.
- The thesis statement appears as the final sentence in the essay's introduction.

# What is an essay's thesis statement?

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- An essay about being bitten by a shark might have the following thesis statement:
  - Being bitten by a shark was an experience that changed my life in surprisingly positive ways.

# What is an Essay's Thesis Statement?

A thesis statement is the most important sentence in the essay.

# What is an essay's thesis statement?

- Remember, the thesis statement tells the reader what the essay will be about.
- Do not be hesitant or “wishy-washy” in your essay's thesis statement. Tell your reader exactly what you mean. An essay with a weak thesis statement will be a weak essay.



# Summary

- Please remember the following:
  - An essay's introduction introduces the essay's topic to the reader.
- 1. The introduction includes the grabber to grab the reader's attention,
- 2. transitional sentences between the grabber and the thesis statement, and
- 3. concludes with the thesis statement.

# This is the conclusion of this presentation.

Please review this presentation, other notes provided by your professor, and the appropriate assigned texts to help you write your essay's introduction.