

## The Introductory Paragraph

The introductory paragraph is the first paragraph of the essay. It consists of three main parts: the *topic sentence*, the *hook* and the *thesis statement*.

### + The Topic Sentence

The topic sentence is usually the first sentence in any paragraph. In introductory paragraphs, the topic sentence is essential for the general organization of the paragraph. It acts as an *introduction* itself and gives a general idea about the topic under discussion. The topic sentence can be a *definition* or a *general statement*.

### + The Hook

**The hook can be the first or second sentence of the introductory paragraph. It is used to attract readers' attention. To develop an interesting hook, you can use:**

### - *Questions*

- Here's an example of an interesting question hook on the topic of succeeding in college:

*What is the difference between successful college students and unsuccessful college students?*

### - *Quotes*

- This is a hook where you begin your essay with a quotation. The quotation could be from a famous person, but it doesn't have to be. You can quote anyone if it connects to what you're writing about.

If you write an essay on the topic of education you could begin with: Nelson Mandela said, "*Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.*"

If you want to use a quotation for a hook, make sure you quote the words exactly. Choose quotations where the words are striking, powerful, and/ or memorable.

### - *Anecdotes (personal stories)*

- This is a hook where you begin with a short story or episode that relates to your topic.

Readers love stories, especially a well-written story that is memorable. The key to a great story hook is making sure the story directly connects to your essay or paper topic.

Your story can be personal or someone else's story.

Here's an example of a story hook for an essay about the differences between British and American English. I used my own story about a trip to England.

*I got off the train and pulled my luggage behind me. A cab pulled up to the curb, and the driver got out. He lifted my luggage and said, "Miss, I'm just going to put your stuff in the boot." I didn't know what he meant until I saw him open the car's trunk. Then I realized the boot means car trunk. I got in the cab, wondering how many other words would be different in England.*

### - *Metaphor – Simile*

- A metaphor is a figure of speech that directly compares one thing to another, but these two things seem unrelated. An example of a metaphor is: *Her boyfriend is a rat.*

The boyfriend is not really a rat, but he behaves like one.

A simile is like a metaphor. Both compare two unrelated things to each other, but a simile uses the words *like* or *as* to connect them. A simile is less strong than a comparison in a metaphor. For example: *Writing a research paper is like running a marathon when it's 95 degrees Fahrenheit.*

If your essay topic is on business blogging, you could write the metaphor hook: *A business blog is a magnet pulling clients to a company.*

Or the simile hook:

*A business blog is like a magnet that pulls clients to a company.*

### - **Statistics**

- Here's an example of a factual hook about an essay on gun ownership in the United States.

*Almost two-thirds of American adults at some point in their life lived in a home with at least one gun.*

Source: The Pew Research Center, "America's Relationship With Guns: An In-Depth Look at the Attitudes and Experiences of US Adults" <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2017/06/22/americas-complex-relationship-with-guns/>

### - **Interesting information or Facts**

### - **Background information**

## + Thesis Statement

The Thesis Statement is the most important section of the essay. It usually takes the form of *one sentence* at the *end* of the introductory paragraph. It must be very *specific*, *straight to the point*, and states *exactly* the information that will be discussed in the body paragraphs.

How long does it need to be?	one or two sentences
Where is your thesis statement?	in the introduction
Is your thesis statement clear?	straight to the point
Does your thesis include a comment about your position on the issue at hand?	what position you will take in relation to that topic

## Tips to Write a Successful Thesis Statement

Avoid sentence structures like, “The point of my paper is...”

Avoid vague words.

Why should the reader read it?

Use your own words in thesis statements; avoid quoting.

A well-crafted thesis statement reflects well-crafted ideas.

### THESIS STATEMENT:

There are some rules we have to follow while writing a thesis statement.

B) A thesis statement is not a fact or observation.

**Fact or observation:** People use many chemicals. X

**Thesis statement:** Chemicals that people use have some bad effects on our nature. ✓

## THESIS STATEMENT:

C) A thesis statement takes a stand rather than announcing a subject.

**Announcement:** The purpose /subject of this paper is the difficulty of solving our environmental problems. **X**

**Announcement:** I want to talk about the difficulty of solving our environmental problems. **X**

**Thesis statement:** Solving our environmental problems is more difficult than many environmentalists believe. **✓**

D) A thesis statement has one main idea rather than several main ideas. More than one idea may be too difficult for the reader to understand and for the writer to support.

**More than one point:** Knowing a foreign language has many benefits, It also has some disadvantages. **X**

**Thesis statement:** Knowing a foreign language has many advantages for university students. **✓**

E) A thesis statement should neither be too broad nor too narrow.

**Too broad:** The World War II changed the history. **X**

**Too narrow:** I grew up in a small village. **X**

**Thesis statement :** The World War II changed the life style of people of 40s. **✓**

**Thesis statement :** The village I grew up helped me develop myself in three important ways. **✓**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcpo55EoeZo> Hook And thesis statement

<https://en.islcollective.com/login>

[https://www.teachingld.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/DLD\\_HotSheet5.pdf](https://www.teachingld.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/DLD_HotSheet5.pdf)

<https://wordcounter.io/blog/top-6-most-common-thesis-statement-mistakes/>

<https://www.academicwritingsuccess.com/7-sensational-essay-hooks/>