

## **Introductions**

- Presents your topic and offers your thesis
- Draws in your reader
- Establishes your attitude and offers a guide to your essay

### **Strategies for writing an introduction:**

1. Subject-clarification-thesis format (Safe, practical approach)
2. Anecdote or incident (Personal or fictional: sets the stage)
3. Example (concrete, relevant support)
4. Details (uses the senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, touch)
5. Statistics or data
6. Controversial statement or opinion (elicits response)
7. Quotation
8. Correction of a false assumption (establishes authority)

### **Tips:**

- Introduction may not be the first thing written. Use your notes and pre-writing materials to help map out ideas, but shape your introduction as you revise.
- To pack the biggest punch, put the thesis at the end of your first paragraph. This allows your introduction to build to its point, to segue into the following paragraph, and to avoid repetitive statements.

## **Conclusions**

- Focuses on your main point and drives home your purpose
- Gratifies the reader by making your purpose memorable

### **Strategies for writing a conclusion:**

1. Summarize key points, or "systematic wrap-up"
  - o A functional strategy for a longer paper (10+ pages) because it offers an overview after a detailed discussion
  - o Dangerously repetitious in a shorter paper (less than 5-7 pages)
2. Discuss a course of action (show where your insights lead)
3. Consider the wider significance of your topic
4. Offer advice, but avoid cliché or triteness
5. Pose a question for future investigation
6. Use your introduction as a means of creating symmetry and reinforcing purpose

### **Tips:**

- Do not introduce new ideas
- The conclusion often is what the reader remembers about your paper, so wrap up your ideas with your purpose in mind.
- While drafting and revising, save choice ideas or phrases specifically for the conclusion. This avoids the dilemma of creative fatigue and increases the likelihood of a strong ending.

### **Bibliography**

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- Trimble, John R. Writing With Style, Conversations on the Art of Writing. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000.
- Williams, Joseph M. Style, Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. NY: Pearson Longman, 2005.