



Writing an Introduction

An Introduction Should:

- gain the reader's attention.
- direct the reader's attention toward the topic.
- present the thesis statement.
- start generally and end specifically.

Ideas for Starting an Introduction

Startling Statement

Make a statement that catches the reader's attention.

Ex: No one writes for pleasure anymore. That is, no one writes strictly for pleasure.

Quotation

Cite an interesting quotation relating to your topic.

Ex: John Fletcher once said, "Ask how to live? Write, write, write anything."

Historical Allusion

Refer to a historical person, place, or thing.

Ex: When Jane Austin was a child, her love of writing was sparked by...

Literary Allusion

Refer to a person, place, or thing from a written work.

Ex: Just as Laura found an escape in her glass menagerie, many find a haven in writing...

Personal Allusion

Refer to an event in your own life.

Ex: I remember the first time I discovered the joy of writing. In the fourth grade...

Question

Ask a question that will stimulate the reader's interest.

Ex: Why in the world would anyone want to write something when he does not have to?

Description

Paint a picture in the reader's mind.

Ex: Imagine curling up in a big, reclining chair, covered with a cozy quilt, with a cup of hot chocolate on the table next to you and a journal and pen in your hands--this is what writing for pleasure is all about.

Narrative

Tell a brief story.

Ex: When Charles began to write for fun, he never imagined he would save someone's life.

Analogy

Compare your topic with a similar topic.

Ex: Writing for pleasure is like going for a swim; you never know how good it will feel until you jump right into it.

Understatement

Make an ordinary statement that catches attention because of its extreme plainness.

Ex: Writing is writing, isn't it? Or can it be something more?

Prediction

Make a statement about what may happen in the future regarding your topic.

Ex: By the year 2010 A.D., America's favorite pastime will be writing for pleasure.

Statistics

Quote a statistic relating to your topic.

Ex: According to a recent survey, 87% of the people polled claimed they enjoyed creative writing but have never considered it a hobby.

Claim

Asserting a statement as fact, preferably something unexpected.

Ex: An average house cat gains more pleasure from writing than most people do. That is, it gains pleasure from lying in the middle of whatever its owner is trying to write.

Joke

Use a humorous statement to introduce your topic.

Ex: Contrary to popular belief, those who write for pleasure are not limited to monks who have taken a vow of silence.