



## Writing an Introduction

### An Introduction Should:

- Capture 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.*