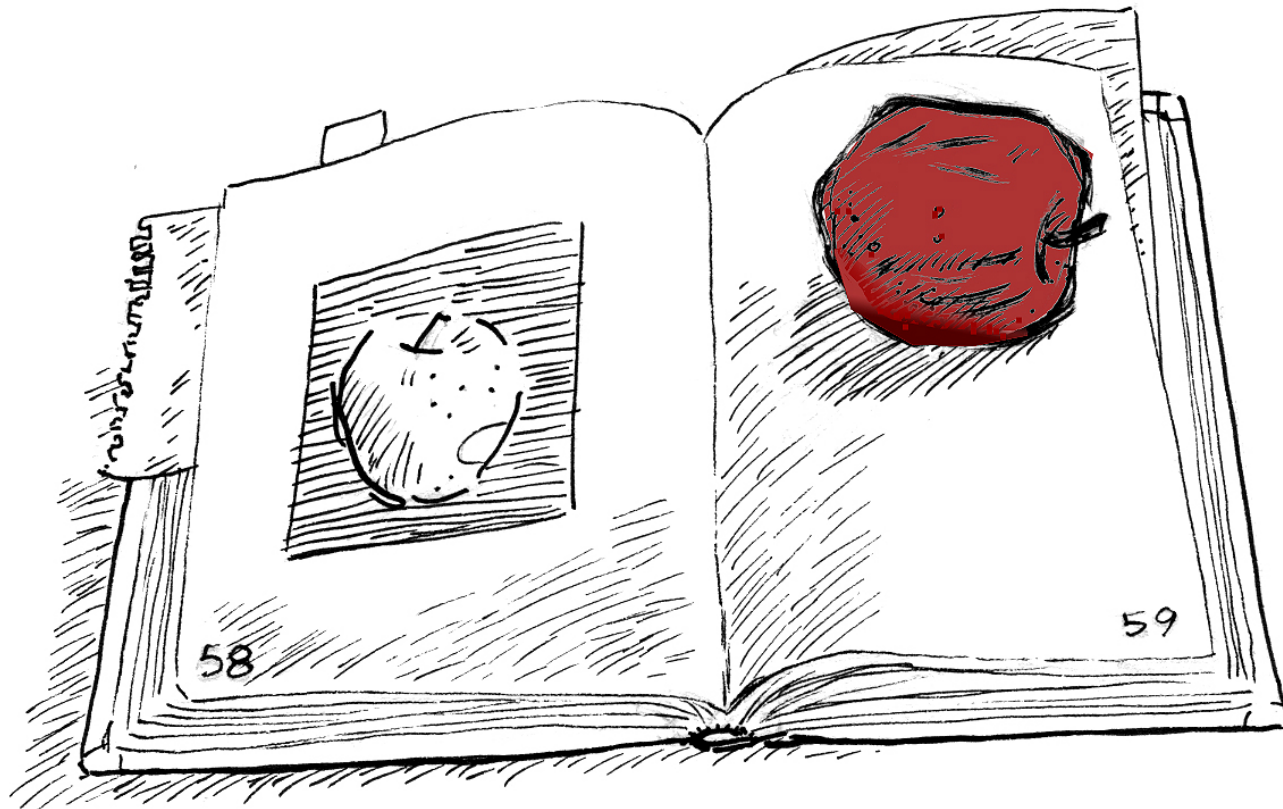


# Introductions

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# *Introduction Strategies*

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**The introduction is an essential part of the paper.**

- It establishes a pattern for readers, allowing them to subconsciously understand the plan of attack that the writer will take.
- Often the pattern is *not* recognized by the average reader—yet the strategies placed in the opening sentences do prepare them for information to unfold within the essay.
- Introductions also allow the writer an opportunity to establish a series of quick definitions and terminologies for the reader.
- Such clarifications serve three purposes:
  1. Review material already known to the audience **-or-**
  2. Clarify terms which are not known to the audience **-or-**
  3. Explain the author’s interpretation of terminologies used in the paper.

# *Introduction Strategies*

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- An introduction should not take more than two paragraphs for essays.
- In books however, introductions are many pages of material—think of the average text book.
- In hard news, such as newspapers or news-blogs, the journalist will use a concept called the inverted pyramid concept. By nature of the newspaper layout constrictions, vital information must be told up front.
- The Five W's and One H must be addressed immediately in the first sentence.
  - > *who*
  - > *what*
  - > *where*
  - > *when*
  - > *why*
  - > *how*

# Introduction Strategies

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**The typical academic paper follows a similar concept.**

Each sentence *slightly* decreases in importance until the last declaration:

Lead in topic (sentence #1)

sentence #2 *Important* defense details: Secondary Evidence Sentence

sentence #3 *Interesting* defense details: Secondary Evidence Sentence

sentence #4 *Interesting* defense details: Secondary Evidence Sentence

sentence #5 Thesis

The last sentence acts as the **thesis statement** and reinforces the topic sentence.

There are ways of experimenting with placement of the thesis statement.

- The opening of subsequent paragraphs within the full paper must contain **transitions** to flow the reader through the remainder of the essay.

# *Introduction Strategies*

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## **Common Transition Phrases:**

- *also, besides, finally, moreover, in contrast, on the other hand, however, but*
- These keep the reader aware of your strategy throughout the essay.  
Transitions subconsciously alert the reader what pattern you are using.
- For example, if you are comparing two products of equal value, then maintain the flow of your comparison with words such as: *likewise, in addition, as well*
- Most important: use a variety of these, do not resort to using the same one over and over and over—; the use of variety adds more interest to the material.
- Finally, different essay patterns utilize different transitions;  
as we go on, we will discuss the various possibilities for your papers.

# *Introduction Strategies*

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**All or part of the following three elements may appear in an introduction, before the thesis is declared.**

- a general overview of a topic; a review of common knowledge
- a brief explanation of a historical or cultural concept influencing the topic
- a (re)definition of the topic

# Introduction Strategies

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- A general **overview** of the subject, or a synopsis of the broad topic:  
the thesis offers the writer's opinion or resolution on the overview.

*Since World War II the US has been involved in foreign aid business.*

*During the George W. Bush Presidency, the United States  
spent over 200 dollars billion in an attempt to help many  
underprivileged nations.*



*overview*

*opinion / thesis*

# Introduction Strategies

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- A brief **historical or cultural context**: in other words, the writer provides a historical background of a subject which influenced his/her writing.

→ *Since the Fifties, Puerto Rican natives have relocated to the coastal US.*

*To date more Puerto Rican born citizens live in the States rather than on the island.*



*historical context*

*opinion / thesis*



# Introduction Strategies

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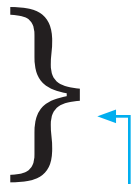
- A **definition** of the concept that will be explained in the essay: in this case, the writer begins the essay with a definition of the topic. Despite the fact it offers a quick solution, readers may lose interest quickly in the subject matter. By declaring immediately your full subject and views, readers can become distanced.

*Illegal immigration refers to immigration across national borders in a way that violates the immigration laws of the destination country.*

*By creating a border wall, the Bush administration hoped to curb the overflow of illegal aliens into the US.*

*definition*

*opinion / thesis*



# *Introduction Strategies*

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## **Three Primary Purposes of an Introduction**

- They establish a frame of reference for the reader.  
In other words, they **inform** the reader:
  - > the paper's general topic
  - > the pattern of writing in use
  - > the type of terminology, evidence and logic to expect throughout the paper.
- They **invite** the audience to continue reading the rest of the paper.  
The introduction should provide necessary background information and grab attention in order to direct it towards the author's main points.
- Likewise they **reveal** the topic to the reading audience with intricate and interesting language.

# *Introduction Strategies*

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**Most importantly, introductions reveal *to the instructor***

- the pattern choice you have made for the resulting paper
- the approved choice of topic which is discussed in the paper
- how much the student paid attention in class
- how well the student conducted research
- how well the student read material from course text book and assigned readings

# Introduction Strategies

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## Finally, **do not include:**

- quoted material
- numerical data or statistics
- paraphrases
- or any other type of evidence which must be cited
- announcements of your intentions (*This paper will discuss—*)

An introduction should fully represent the author and his/her ideas.

Evidence should be presented only in the body paragraphs.

- At this stage an author utilizes the introduction as a starting point to present the main topic in a clear, defined manner.
- The material shown attracts the attention of a reader, hinting at the essay's resolution to the full topic which will be revealed *later* in the closing paragraph