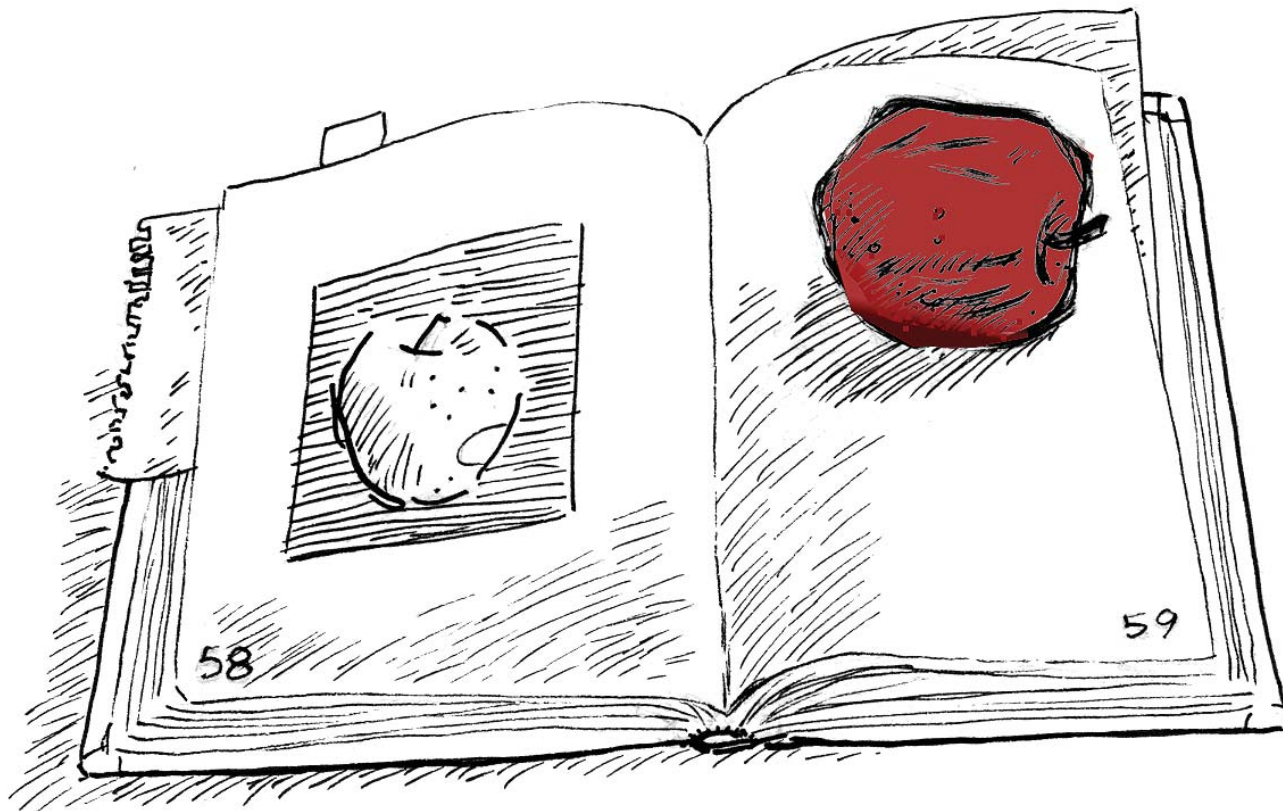


Introductions



Introduction Strategies

The introduction is an essential part of the paper.

- It establishes the chosen mode 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 subconsciously 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.

Introduction Strategies

Introductions, as 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

- 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

The typical academic paper follows the concept that the last sentence acts as the **thesis statement and reinforces the topic sentence.**

- However, there are ways of experimenting with placement of the thesis.
- The opening of subsequent paragraphs within the full paper must contain **transitions** to flow the reader through the remainder of the essay.

Introduction Strategies

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

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

- A general **overview** of a subject, or a synopsis of a larger topic:
the thesis offers the writer's opinion or resolution on the overview.
However, generalizations by nature are broad opinions, easily refuted.

In the postmodern era, the US became involved in foreign aid business.

*Last year we spent over 200 billion in ineffective attempts
to help underprivileged nations.*



overview

opinion / thesis

Introduction Strategies

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

These should be handled carefully so that the historical facts do not control the content or subject of the paper.

→ *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

- 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 national border wall, the Bush administration hoped to curb the overflow of illegal aliens into the US.

definition

opinion / thesis

Introduction Strategies

Three Primary Purposes of an Introduction (*to review*)

- 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

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

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.