



# WRITING AN INTRODUCTION

## GOALS OF THE INTRODUCTION

*Engage your reader's interest, introduce your topic, and articulate your argument.*

- 1) To garner interest in your essay
  - Begin your essay with a “hook” to catch your reader’s attention (e.g., an intriguing anecdote, a thought-provoking question, a quotation, etc.).
- 2) To introduce your essay topic and establish general context
  - Consider your audience. What background information does your reader need?
- 3) To introduce your essay question (what question prompted your research and argument?)
  - Build from the background context into your research question; what led you to consider and pursue this question?
- 4) To introduce the answer that you are proposing to your research question (i.e., your thesis)
  - Be specific! Take more than one sentence if needed.
- 5) To offer a roadmap of your essay’s structure (i.e., the sub-points of your thesis)
  - Break down your argument into main points (to be discussed in your essay’s body paragraphs), but do not summarize them; be brief here, and only offer an overview.

**Note:** It is typically a good strategy to revisit your introduction after you’ve written your essay, as your argument and main points may shift during the writing process.