How to Write an Introduction Paragraph

**ENGAGE YOUR READER (EXAMPLES BELOW)**
It’s important to grab your reader’s attention right away; doing this allows them to enjoy your paper more. Below are suggestions for how to do this:

1. PROVIDE ESSENTIAL FACTS/BACKGROUND INFORMATION
   Who? What? Where? When? These are questions to answer when establishing background information in your introductory paragraph.

2. DESCRIBE A SCENE
   This allows your reader to visualize what you’re writing about, engaging and placing them in the scene.

3. ADDRESS YOUR READERS DIRECTLY
   If you address your reader immediately, this will automatically grab their attention, making them want to read further.

**AFTERWARDS, ESTABLISH YOUR THESIS**
After the necessary background information, establish your paper’s thesis. This is typically found at the end of your introductory paragraph; it can be one sentence, or it can be multiple. The point is to provide the central idea of your paper; also, it can help with the organization of your paper.

From the Writing Center at the ARC