Introduction Paragraphs Study Sheet

Goals for this Study Sheet

The goal of this study sheet is to be able to help successfully walk you through how to start an introduction paragraph.

Purpose of an Introduction Paragraph

The introduction paragraph can help writers reveal their essay’s central idea or thesis. It can help guide readers to important ideas in the body of the paper. It more importantly provides relevant background information to help readers understand the purpose of the paper.

The introduction paragraph can also help the readers. It can assist with engaging your audience in the purpose or main idea of the paper. Introductory paragraphs can also signal and help the audience identify important ideas that will be addressed in the paper.

Thesis Statements

In college writing, an essay requires that an introductory paragraph (or paragraphs) include a thesis statement, or a sentence (or sentences) that reveal the essay’s central idea. Including a thesis statement at the end of your introduction will help you practice clear essay organization.

An introduction should always include an introductory device that leads into the thesis and stimulates the reader’s interest in the topic. Here are a few strategies:

1. Begin by providing essential facts like who, what, where and when. This is a start to providing relevant background information.
2. Describe a scene. This paints a picture for the audience and helps place them right in the scene that is being described.
3. Address your readers directly. This actively brings the audience into the paper and engages them.