

# INTRODUCTIONS and CONCLUSIONS

Academic Skills Center\* Room 1501 \* Shoreline Community College

## INTRODUCTIONS

Many people have trouble writing introductions. One reason they could be having trouble is that they are trying to write the introduction before they really know what they want to say in their essay. In other words, they are trying to introduce a topic before they have fully considered their *purpose* for writing about the topic and what they are hoping to accomplish by writing about it. Therefore, writers should consider waiting to write their introduction until *after* writing the body of the paper. This can be done whether or not they already have a thesis statement.

Realize that there is no one right way to write an introduction, save for the necessity of a thesis statement (and even here, there are exceptions). If your instructor gives you specific directions for writing an introduction, then of course, you should follow those. If you need more help writing introductions, you might find the following suggestions useful.

### Strategies For Writing an Introduction

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|--|---------|---|
| 1. Present a commonly held view and then contrast it with your own view. | Format: | commonly held view<br>However, (or other connecting word)<br>your view  |
| 2. Provide background and then present your purpose for writing.         | Format: | background<br>purpose statement   |
| 3. Begin with several examples   | Format: | example 1, example 2, example 3<br>generalization                       |
| 4. Begin with an illustrative anecdote                                   | Format: | anecdote<br>thesis statement derived from anecdote                      |
| 5. Begin with a shocking statement and questions                         | Format: | shocking statement<br>question<br>question<br>opinion or fact<br>thesis |
| 6. Move from the general to the specific                                 | Format: | general statement<br>narrower statement<br>specific statement<br>thesis |

## CONCLUSIONS

Your conclusion should leave the reader with a sense that the essay is complete. You should not, however, add new information to your conclusion. Most essay assignments require more than simply a one- or two-sentence summary of the main ideas. Here are a few ways to end your essay:

1. Refer to what was said in the introduction--either the context, historical background, or questions that were raised.
2. Affirm why the topic is important.
3. Make recommendations.
4. Review your main points. (But be careful of being redundant and boring.)
5. Suggest solutions to the problem discussed.
6. Conclude with an anecdote or a quotation related to the thesis.