

Writing Introductions

Introductions come in many shapes and sizes. Some are extremely brief, comprising a few sentences. Others are as long as 1.5 pages. Authors also choose to 'begin' their writing in different ways. Some begin with an engaging anecdote. Others take previous research as their starting point. However, good introductions have a number of features in common:

1. They evoke your interest.
2. They show clearly that they have understood the goals they are required to reach.
3. They make you feel confident that they will handle the topic competently.
4. They signal their position with respect to the topic under discussion.

They achieve this by:

1. Providing the context for the topic.
2. Explaining why the topic is important (personally and/or theoretically).
3. Identifying an unanswered question or a puzzle (the 'niche' for the essay).
4. Delimiting the scope of the essay.
5. Indicating the goal of the essay.
6. Providing an outline of the main points to be covered by the essay.
7. Making clear their position on the topic.

**Bearing these points in mind,
you might like to work through the task provided.**