

Introductory Paragraph

Introductory Motivator (attention-getter, attention-grabber):

A motivator provides background information related to a topic, develops interest and captures the audience's attention.

Several types of introductory motivators:

- Anecdote (very brief story to illustrate a point)
 - Interesting fact or statistic (Cite and then explain how it relates to topic)
 - Known to unknown (Most people know _____; however, many are unaware that _____)
 - Startling information (in quote form and then explained or in entirely your own words)
 - Question (Related to material discussed or answered in the essay)
 - Quote (Often first sentence of essay, followed by an explanation)
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Thesis Statement:

A thesis statement outlines the specific points of information that will be discussed an essay. It should only cover information in the essay and must be supported with evidence.

When writing a thesis statement, consider the following questions:

- What am I trying to explain?
 - How can I categorize my explanation into different parts?
 - In what order should I present the different parts of my explanation?
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