

Introductions and Thesis Statements

- You should introduce your essay with a general statement and then narrow the topic to a specific thesis.
 - ✓ Give background info that helps guide your reader to the main idea of your paper.
 - ✓ Set the scene of your paper: Be sure that the beginning foreshadows the whole essay, but without revealing all of the details that will follow.
 - ✓ Use the opportunity to engage the reader's attention from the very beginning of your essay
 - ✓ State a surprising fact or idea relevant to the central focus of your essay.
- Your thesis statement should be found at the end of your introduction. A strong, clear thesis is the key to a successful essay. It is the guide that the reader (and you) will follow throughout the paper. Be sure that it clearly states the central idea of your essay.
- *What is a Thesis Statement?*
 - ✓ Fact + Idea
 - ✓ Answers the question, What is the point of the essay?
 - ✓ An attitude or position on a problem taken by a writer or speaker with the purpose of proving or supporting it
 - ✓ Acts as a road map to the essay by announcing the destination and suggesting the route for getting there
 - ✓ Is arguable – includes specific evidence from text
 - ✓ If needed, it can be 2 sentences.
- *How do I craft an effective Thesis Statement?*
 - ✓ Research your topic
 - ✓ Choose an approach or idea that interests you
 - ✓ Organize the body of your paper so that your topic sentences support your thesis
 - ✓ As a general rule, your thesis statement appears at the end of your introduction
 - ✓ Narrow the focus of your main ideas