



INTRODUCTIONS

Use this sheet to help you:

- write clear, well structured, impressive introductions

5 minute self test

Circle the correct words in the following sentences

1. The introduction **should** / **shouldn't** state your opinion.
2. The introduction **should** / **shouldn't** indicate the outline of the text.
3. The thesis statement should appear near the **start** / **end** of the introduction.
4. General statements should appear near the **start** / **end** of the introduction.
5. Citing other sources is **acceptable** / **not acceptable** in the introduction

The importance of your introduction

You may have heard the expression, "First impressions count". It is worth remembering the simple wisdom of this when writing an introduction for an essay.

In an introduction, you need to impress the reader by showing you understand the topic and issue. But this is not all. It is also important to show that you are about to present an argument that is coherent, informed, persuasive and clearly structured.

Because of the great difficulty that can be involved in writing an introduction, it is good practice write the introduction after you write the body.

Introduction structure

An introduction usually consists of two main parts (usually within the same paragraph):

1. general statements; 2. the thesis statement.

1. General statements:

- demonstrate knowledge of the topic and the issue
- provide a context
- may define terms
- indicate that you have done extensive research
- may include in-text references
- are not too detailed and not too general

2. The thesis statement

- states your position
- provides an outline of what will follow

If you are writing an argumentative essay, the thesis statement may mention opposing, or modifying positions in a dependent clause.

While	it has been argued that...	counter argument or modifying clause
Although	it is true that (...) can lead to (...)	
Despite the fact that	some theorists argue that...	
Even though	(...) is not always...	
In spite of the fact that	many people assume that..	

your position	for three main reasons. has two causes. in five methods. can be distinguished in four main ways. + perhaps a list of these actual areas to be addressed.
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Thesis statements don't have to be in this order and don't have to be just one sentence. However, they do have to make your position and focus clear.

Refer directly to the essay question in your thesis statement. You may wish to use key words from the question, but do not just repeat the question!

How long should the introduction be? About 5-10% of the whole paper.

Activity 1:

Read the essay question below and the introduction that follows. Note how the introduction begins with general statements before moving to an outline of what will follow and finally a statement of the writer's position, their 'thesis'.

Q. Will the Euro Rapidly Rival the Dollar as a Reserve Currency?

In the 21st century, countries in every region around the world are becoming more economically integrated. This integration is a way of solving economic problems. Economic integration varies from reduction of intra-group tariffs to common economic policies and common currency. Free trade areas, such as NAFTA and AFTA, are integrated to remove intra-group tariffs. The well-known European Monetary Union (EMU) has common economic policies with an intensive degree of cooperation. For example, they have created a new single currency, the Euro, between the member countries.

The EMU was formed with four main purposes. The first purpose was to bring European people more closely together. The second purpose was to create cooperation between European people. The third purpose was to create Europe's single market to benefit European economies from: stable prices, more competitive companies, varied choices of goods and services for the consumer and faster economic growth. The last purpose was to increase the Euro's role to be an important currency in the world economy (Euro Guide, 1998, p. 24).

One significant role of the Euro currency is that it is used as an official reserve currency. Since the creation of the Euro, many economists have claimed that the Euro will quickly compete against the US dollar as a reserve currency (Bergsten, 1997, p. 29; Bertaut and Iyigun, 1999; Hanes, 1999). In this essay, I will firstly outline the historical background of the European Monetary Union. Secondly, I will discuss the importance of a reserve currency. Thirdly, I will give the required qualifications of a reserve currency. Fourthly, I will describe the reasons that the dollar became an important reserve currency. Finally, I will examine the prospect of the Euro as an official reserve currency. I will argue that the Euro cannot currently compete against the U.S. dollar as an international reserve currency because of the incumbency of the dollar and incomplete integration of the EMU.

Activity 2:

Write an introduction for the following essay question:

Studying in an overseas university is unwise. It is better to study in one's home country.

Answers

5 minute self test

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4. General statements should appear near the **start** / end of the introduction.
5. Citing other sources is **acceptable** / not acceptable in the introduction.