

How to write an Introduction

Whether you are writing a report, essay, dissertation, presentation, leaflet or case study, introductions always need to do similar jobs for the reader.

Use **INTROS**

- ❖ **IN**troduce the context: set the scene, provide background
 - Recent events, popular knowledge, general information
 - This eases your reader gently into the particular topic by starting off with something they are likely to already know
 - Situate the topic in recent debates or controversies
- ❖ **T**opic: present the topic
 - Explain the key ideas and main question or topic of your work
 - Highlight key terms, definitions, and explain what particular aspect(s) are being explored
- ❖ **R**ationale: Explain why it is important
 - Offering a rationale or a justification for the topic helps develop the critical aspect of your work.
 - If you have chosen the topic, explain why it has been chosen (without using personal language).
 - If you haven't chosen the topic or are working on a topic which has been provided for you, explain why the debate or topic is important in the field of study.
- ❖ **O**bjective: Define the aim or purpose of your piece of work
 - What are you going to try to do? Prove a point, compare and contrast two ideas, develop a solution?
 - Note that for many assignments and essays, the aim needs to answer the question or title set.
- ❖ **S**tructure: Outline what points will be discussed and in what order?
 - Give your reader a map for what is coming up next. Clearly indicate the order.

Tip: Write your introduction **LAST!** It is much easier to explain your aim and structure after you have written the main body and conclusion.

Tip: Move from general to specific

