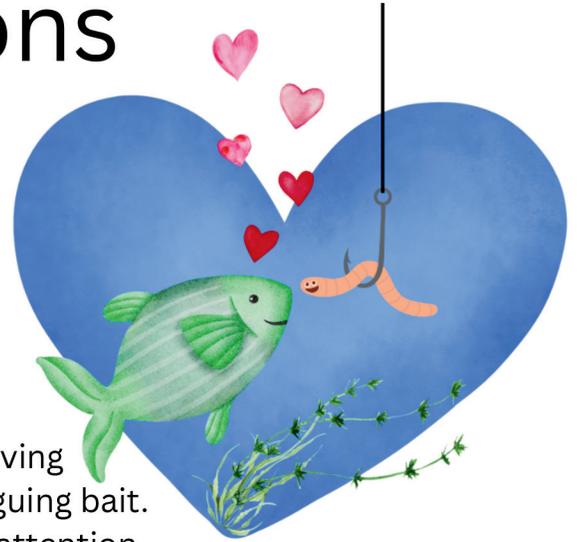


Essay Introductions

Hook that reader!
Reel him in!



Writing a great introduction is a lot like fishing: the better the bait, the easier the catch. In our fast-moving world of information overload, a writer needs intriguing bait. Follow these steps to quickly capture the reader's attention.

1

Open with an attention-grabbing sentence. Here are five strategies:

- **Share an interesting fact or statistic.** Example: Last year alone, SpaceX launched over 1,900 satellites into low Earth orbit.
- **Ask an intelligent question that can't be answered with "yes" or "no".** Example: "What can be done with a swarm of invasive bees?"
- **Create a fascinating sensory description.** Example: Overtaking cracks and crevices, creeping inch by inch, black mold silently overtakes moist spaces, emitting toxic byproducts into the air.
- **Insert a quote.** Example: "Angry people are not always wise" (Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*).
- **Invent sentence fragments.** Example: Fire-engine-red eyes. That insatiable itch. Allergies affect millions of people every day.

2

Next, keep your reader baited by supplying background information to provide context. Your reader needs to know where you are leading them in space (location) and time (date/era). If writing about literature, provide title and author information. This should be brief: do not give away any body paragraph evidence.

3

Finally, reveal your thesis sentence. State the point you intend to prove. Include your three body paragraph topics in your thesis sentence if you are writing five paragraphs or less.

