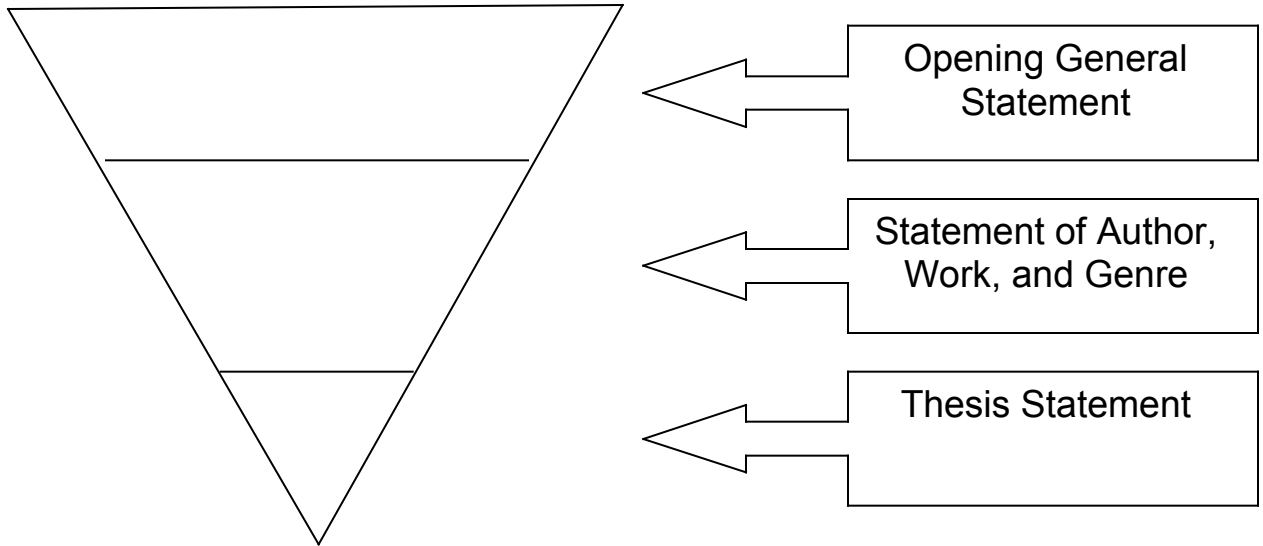


The Introduction



What is an Introduction?

The Introduction is the first paragraph of the Five Paragraph Essay. It introduces the Topic to be discussed in the essay.

How long does it have to be?

The Introduction is usually made up of three sentences: the Opening General Statement, the Statement of Author, Work, and Genre, and the Thesis.

Opening General Statements

What is an Opening General Statement?

An Opening General Statement is an introductory sentence dealing with a general idea that somehow relates to the Topic of your essay. The Opening General Statement is the first sentence of the Introduction.

What does an Opening General Statement do?

An Opening General Statement grabs the reader's attention and introduces the topic in a general way. An Opening General Statement **does not** state the Topic of the essay directly, but provides background information that will lead the reader to the Topic.

What information is in the Opening General Statement?

The Opening General Statement includes a general idea that relates to the Topic.

How do I write an Opening General Statement?

You may want to start by writing your Topic at the top of a sheet of paper and listing all of the general ideas you can think of that relate to your Topic in some way.

How do I make my Opening General Statement grab the reader's attention?

You might want to try any and all of the following:

- ✓ Start your sentence with an *-ing* word

Example: *Writing* is an excellent form of communication.

- ✓ Define an idea that relates to your subject

Example: Archetypes are things that appear in many different cultures.

- ✓ Make statements in positive form

Example: Lasagna is not a bad meal.

NEGATIVE FORM

Lasagna is an excellent meal.

POSITIVE FORM

PRACTICE:

Write an attention-grabbing Opening General Statement for each of the following Topics:

1. Tyrrell County is a great place to live
2. Michael Jordan is the best basketball player ever
3. My favorite class is _____
4. My favorite food is _____
5. My favorite recording artist is _____
6. My best friend is _____
7. How to write a paragraph
8. How to ride a bicycle
9. School uniforms are a bad idea
10. A curfew for teenagers is a bad idea

Statements of Author, Work, and Genre

What is a Statement of Author, Work, and Genre?

A statement of Author, Work, and Genre is the second sentence of the Introduction. It introduces the name of the Author, the title of the Work, and the Genre (type) of the piece of literature you are writing about.

What information is in the Author, Work, and Genre sentence?

The Author is the name of the person who wrote the literature you are writing about. The Work is the title of the literature you are writing about. The Genre is the kind of literature you are writing about.

What exactly is Genre?

The Genre of the literature you are writing about can be any of the following:

Novel	Play – Comedy
Short Story	Romance
Poem– Sonnet	Tragedy
Epic	Essay
Pastoral	Article
Folk Tale	Film

How do I write a statement of Author, Work, and Genre?

You can begin by listing all of this information on a sheet of paper and then weaving it together to form a sentence, making sure that the sentence somehow relates to your topic.

Example:

Author	Robert Frost
Work	“The Mending-Wall”
Genre	Poem
Topic	Theme of the poem

Transition

It is important that the Statement of Author, Work, and Genre *flows* from the Opening General Statement smoothly. In order to do this, you can use a transition word or phrase in this sentence. You can also pick a key word or phrase from the Opening General Statement to repeat in the Statement of Author, Work, and Genre.

Example:

Opening General Statement – *Imagery* is a powerful tool for passing on information by appealing to the reader's senses.

Statement of Author, Work, and Genre – Robert Frost's poem "The Mending-Wall" uses strong *imagery* to reveal its theme.

PRACTICE:

Write a Statement of Author, Work, and Genre for each of the following:

1. Writer: Charlotte Brönte
Title: Jane Eyre
Genre: Novel
Topic: Gothic imagery
2. Writer: William Shakespeare
Title: Romeo and Juliet
Genre: Tragedy
Topic: Dramatic Irony
3. Writer: Tom Stoppard
Title: Shakespeare in Love
Genre: Film
Topic: Comparison to Romeo and Juliet

Thesis Statements

What is a Thesis Statement?

A Thesis is a general statement that states what the writer will prove (or explain) in the essay. The Thesis is the last sentence of your Introduction, and it introduces the Topic of your paper, as well as the Sub-Topics that will be covered in the Body of your paper.

What information is in the Thesis Statement?

The Thesis includes the Topic and Sub-Topics of the essay.

How do I write a Thesis Statement?

You can begin by listing the Topics and Sub-Topics of your essay. Next, write a sentence that weaves together these elements to make a single point.

Example:

Topic	Australia is a good place for a vacation
Sub-Topic 1	Friendly people
Sub-Topic 2	Beautiful scenery
Sub-Topic 3	Great food

Thesis – Friendly people, beautiful scenery, and great food make Australia a good place for a vacation.

PRACTICE:

Write a Thesis Statement for each of the following Topics (you come up with the Sub-Topics).

1. Tyrrell County is a great place to live
2. Michael Jordan is the best basketball player ever
3. My favorite class is _____
4. My favorite food is _____
5. My favorite recording artist is _____