

Parts of a Paper

Introduction

A good introduction tells the reader what the paper will be about and makes him/her want to finish reading it. The [thesis statement](#) can come at the beginning or the end of the paragraph.

Types of opening statements:

- * Anecdote – a brief personal story that makes a point
- * ask a question
- * use a short, relevant quotation
- * write a brief, vivid description
- * use a surprising fact or statistic

Avoid using “In this paper I will...” or “This paper is about...” these types of opening lines are overused and do not make the reader want to continue (even your instructor).

The introduction is often the most difficult part of the paper to write. It may be easier to write it last – after you have finished the body and conclusion.

Body

These paragraphs support and explain your thesis statement.

A [paragraph](#) is a group of sentences that describe one idea, thought, or topic. You can have several bits of supporting evidence to support the one idea but once you start to write about something else you need to create a new paragraph. Rambling on about several ideas or thoughts within a single paragraph will confuse the reader - you may have great ideas but if the reader cannot follow along they will stop reading.

Conclusion

The [conclusion](#) allows you to have the last word on the subject and sum up the points of the paper. Don't just repeat the facts; your reader has already read the paper, show them how all the information fits together and why it should matter to them. The conclusion should not be overly long and should not introduce new ideas.