

Writing Effective Introductory Paragraphs

Effective introductory paragraphs usually have at least three common characteristics:

- ***Tell the reader what the essay is about.*** The introductory paragraph states the essay's issue in very specific terms. Many introductory paragraphs briefly describe the main points of the argument that will be made.
- ***Engage the reader in the issue.*** The introductory paragraph should grab the reader's attention. You can often interest the reader in the issue with an amusing or unexpected statement. Sometimes the introduction challenges the reader to do or believe something surprising. Sometimes a quote from an expert or famous person helps interest the reader in the essay.
- ***Tell the reader what the reader will get from the essay.*** The last sentence of the introductory paragraph often foreshadows the conclusion of the essay. You can further engage the reader in your essay by promising a rewarding conclusion.