

INTRODUCTIONS

A well-written introduction will perform several important roles:

- It will attract the reader's interest! This can be done by using one of the 9 methods of introduction at the end of this section.
- It will present a thesis statement — a clear, direct stance or view of a topic to be developed in the essay. It is the backbone of the essay
- It will indicate a plan of development — a "preview" of the major points that will substantiate the thesis statement. The points must be listed in the order in which they will appear in the essay.

The thesis statement and plan of development must be placed into one sentence! (In some cases, the thesis statement and plan of development are not presented in the same sentence; in others, the plan of development may be omitted).

Your introduction must consist of only 3 sentences! The first two will attract; third, the thesis statement. Here are 9 methods of introduction to captivate your reader. The examples of introductory paragraphs are based on the previous essay "Problems of My Adolescence."

1. **General** - eases the reader into your thesis by providing a background.

No matter what age, we all face problems, but adolescence seems to be the worst! I know, because as a teen, I suffered. Everyday, I battled the terrible physical, family, and social troubles of adolescence.

2. **Opposite** - starts with an idea that is opposite of the view that you will develop; your reader will be surprised and then intrigued!

During high school, I was hailed most popular and was the envy of all of my friends. On the outside, I appeared to be perfect, but on the inside, I was harboring a huge, dark secret. Everyday, I battled the terrible physical, family, and social troubles of adolescence.

3. **Statistic** - shows that the subject is important or critical by using a fraction, a percentage, a sum total, a ranking, or an out/of number.

According to a recent survey conducted by Teen Magazine, 83% of adolescents polled reported that they were unhappy with their lives. Unfortunately, each year, this figure continues to rise. I can surely relate to those teens because everyday, I battled the terrible physical, family, and social troubles of adolescence.