

## WRITING AN INTRODUCTION

### What is an introduction?

This is the first paragraph of a persuasive or expository paper. It tells the reader the “big topic” of the essay. It can remind them of familiar things and it suggests new ideas. The final sentence of the paragraph contains a thesis and a sub-thesis, which will drive the organization of the rest of your paper.

### Why do we use it?

People are not mind readers. You have to give the reader background as to what you are thinking about and why. If someone walked up to you and started giving detailed reasons about why garbage collection is good, you might be lost and you would probably think it was random. You would need to know why this person is giving these facts if you are to care.

### What is the most common error?

Students commonly make one of three mistakes: 1) Not relating their introduction to the topic, or not answering the question. 2) They do not include a thesis and sub thesis. 3) They give supporting details in the first paragraph.

### How do I start?

Answer the question, “What is the topic of this paper?” or “What is the problem you are going to address?”

### EXAMPLE QUESTION ONE:

*What can individuals do to stop global warming?*

### BAD EXAMPLE ONE:

Global warming can be stopped if we all ride bicycles to work. So let’s do it.

### BAD EXAMPLE ONE FIXED:

More people are becoming aware of global warming, and with that is a growing concern. People are concerned enough that they are willing to make changes in their lifestyle to lessen the damage to the environment. Studies show that a significant amount of pollutions can be eliminated if we drive cars less often. If everyone used a bicycle for his or her main form of transportation, global warming can be stopped.

### EXAMPLE QUESTION TWO:

*How can bullying be reduced in schools?*

### BAD EXAMPLE TWO:

Bullying in schools starts as early as pre-school and continues through high school. Children pick on each for a variety of reasons, including weight, dress, appearance, and to form in-groups and out-groups. Bullying can escalate to include verbal harassment and physical violence.

### BAD EXAMPLE TWO FIXED:

Bullying in schools starts as early as pre-school and continues through high school. Children pick on each for a variety of reasons, including weight, dress, appearance, and to form in-groups and out-groups. Bullying can escalate to include verbal harassment and physical violence. Bullying can be reduced by teaching children alternative behaviors, by training adults how to intervene, and by modeling the intervention to students.

**EXAMPLE QUESTION Three:**

*What factors caused World War One?*

**BAD EXAMPLE THREE:**

World War I, also known as “The War To End All Wars,” was a conflict brought on by three main causes. First, most of the countries in Europe were building up their military. Germany developed a state-of-the-art ship called the Dreadnaught. Germany also developed a machine gun. Britain trained an army. Austria-Hungary built cannons. This militarism made them ready to fight and therefore easier to declare war.

**BAD EXAMPLE THREE FIXED:**

World War I, also known as “The War To End All Wars,” was a conflict brought on by three main causes. The timing of these causes, all happening in one geographic region caused World War I to begin with it quickly spreading around the world through the colonies of the five great powers. Militarism, nationalism, and imperialism all caused World War I.