

Introduction to Research: Understanding and Applying Multiple Strategies

Introductions and conclusions are important components of any academic paper. Introductions and conclusions should also be included in non-academic writing, such as emails, webpages, or business and technical documents.

The following provides information on how to write introductions and conclusions in both academic and non-academic writing.

Introductions for academic papers

An introduction is the first paragraph of your paper. The goal of your introduction is to let your reader know the topic of the paper and what points will be made about the topic. The thesis statement that is included in the introduction tells your reader the specific purpose or main argument of your paper. These can be achieved by taking your introduction from "general" to "specific."

Think of an introduction paragraph in an academic paper as an upside-down triangle, with the broadest part on top and the sharpest point at the bottom. It should begin by providing your reader a general understanding of the overall topic. The middle of the introduction should narrow down the topic so your reader understands the relevance of the topic and what you plan to accomplish in your paper. Finally, direct your reader to your main point by stating your thesis clearly.

By moving from general subject to specific thesis, your audience will have a more concrete understanding of what your paper will focus on.

General This refers to the broader topic you will address in your paper and its significance for the reader. For example, it might let your reader know you are writing about "climate change." **Example:** Climate change caused by humans is having a drastic effect on the world. **Narrowing** This is where you guide your reader to see your purpose for this particular paper. These sentences should give the reader an idea of what the context is for the topic. For example, it's not that you want to merely discuss climate change in general, but instead want to discuss the effects on yearly temperatures and how citizens can act. **Example:** However, the damage is not only affecting glaciers and rivers. Temperatures are starting to noticeable shift in cities and neighborhoods that have been otherwise consistent for centuries. **Addressing the issue** may require challenging decisions by individuals who have grown comfortable with their lifestyles and may be unaware of how their choices contribute to climate change. **Specific** This is where you narrow the focus to your argument, or your Thesis Statement. It is no longer about "climate change" or "human action," for example, but taking the argument all the way to your specific point. **Example:** While it has long been convenient to ignore how small changes may have a compounding effect on slowing climate change, it is vital to consider the extent to which measures such as eliminating single-use plastics can provide meaningful help.

Reference

[Research Design in Counseling](#)

[Designing and Conducting Ethnographic Research: An Introduction \(Volume 1\)
\(Ethnographer's Toolkit, Second Edition, 1\)](#)