

Parts of the Persuasive Essay

1. The Introduction

The introduction hooks the readers' attention, tells the reader what to expect in the essay, contains a reference to the main topics to be discussed, and has a thesis statement. Some "hooks" include:

- a) Opening with an unusual detail: Manitoba, because of its cold climate, is not thought of as a great place to be a reptile. Actually, it has the largest seasonal congregation of garter snakes in the world!
- b) Opening with a strong statement: Cigarettes are the number one cause of lighter sales in Canada!
- c) Opening with a quotation: Elbert Hubbard once said, "Truth is stronger than fiction."
- d) Opening with an Anecdote: An anecdote is a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person. They can provide an amusing and attention-getting opening if it is short and to the point.
- e) Opening with a statistic or fact: Sometimes a statistic or fact will add emphasis or interest to your topic. It may be wise to include the item's authoritative source.
- f) Opening with a question: Have you ever considered how many books we'd read if it were not for television?
- g) Opening with an exaggeration or outrageous statement: The whole world watched as the comet flew overhead.

The introduction should also include a thesis or focus statement.

The thesis is your statement of purpose. The thesis should be one sentence in length. This is the foundation of your essay and it will serve to guide you in writing the entire paper. The thesis should tell your opinion and your reasons for thinking that.

There are three objectives of a thesis statement:

1. It tells the reader the specific topic of your essay.
2. It imposes manageable limits on that topic.
3. It suggests the organization of your paper.

Through the thesis statement, you should say to the reader:

"I've thought about this topic, I know what I believe about it, and I know how to organize it."

Your thesis should be threaded throughout the rest of your essay.

Writing a Thesis

A thesis is one sentence at the end of an introductory paragraph that summarizes the claim of your essay and provides your reasons.

A thesis should do three things:

- Restate the question
- Answer the question/State your claim
- Provide your three reasons

Example: Dogs make the best pets because they are loyal, they are good protectors, and they are known as man's best friend.

Step 1 Restate the question:



Step 2 Claim:



Reason 1:

Reason2:

Reason 3:



Final Thesis: