

Pedagogish Infobase

Planning Your Introduction

Every writing assignment needs an introductory paragraph. Here are some pointers for planning your introduction.

Your introduction needs to answer several basic questions:

1. *What's your topic?*
Tell the reader what the general area or focus of your essay is.
2. *What's your thesis?*
Tell the reader your main claim about your topic.
3. *What are your supporting claims?*
Tell the reader briefly how you will prove your thesis.

Example of an introductory paragraph:

This essay is about greenhouse gas emissions. I intend to prove that a cap and trade system is the best policy option for dealing with greenhouse gases because it addresses the needs of both environmentalists and free marketeers. In the following paragraphs, I will define the problem of greenhouse gas emissions, list the major alternatives for reducing them, and explain why a cap and trade system is the best choice for the United States.

The **Pedagogish Infobase** includes many other Infosheets that can help you with your writing assignment.

If you want more information on organizing your paper, you might want to try:

- Infosheet #1, Organizing Your Paper
- Infosheet #3, Planning the Body of Your Paper
- Infosheet #4, Planning Your Conclusion
- Infosheet #6, Developing a Thesis Statement