

# Research Paper Introductory Paragraph

"Writing is easy. All you do is stare at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead." - Gene Fowler  
Just kidding! With this guide, writing a paper is about to be painless.

There are 3 steps to every great introduction:

- ☑ 1. *Attention Grabber*
- ☑ 2. *Background Information*
- ☑ 3. *Thesis*

1. *What is an attention grabber?* It is something that draws in the interest of your reader. It could be a statistic, an interesting fact relative to the topic, a question, a personal anecdote, etc.

ex:) Have a minute? Good. Because that may be all it takes to save the life of a child. Accidents kill nearly 8000 children under age 15 each year. For every fatality, 42 more children are admitted to hospitals for treatment. Yet such deaths and injuries can be avoided through these easy precautions parents can take right now. (surprising fact)

ex:) The victory brought pure elation and joy. It was May 1954, just days after the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. At NAACP headquarters in New York the mood was euphoric. Telegrams of congratulations poured in from around the world; reporters and well-wishers crowded the halls. (historical review)

ex:) Is it possible that the American people would voluntarily pay for and use a product that is responsible for the death and illness of millions of people? (rhetorical question)

2. *How do I know what Background Information to include?* It should be necessary information your reader needs in order to understand the priority of your topic, the controversy of your topic, and it should clarify what your topic consists of. Remember, your attention grabber should transition into this background information.

3. *What is a thesis?* The thesis is the roadmap for the rest of your paper. It tells readers what topic is about to be discussed, and the order in which the topic will be discussed. Each new idea relative to your topic should begin in a separate paragraph and be listed within the thesis statement. The thesis makes known to the reader what should be expected to be read. A thesis should do all of the following: narrow the topic to be discussed, make an assertion based on clear support, and justify controversy. It should also include the subtopics (otherwise known as the topics of your body paragraphs).

ex:) Because the Internet is filled with tremendous marketing potential, companies should exploit this potential by using Web pages that offer both advertising and customer support. (subtopics: marketing potential, advertising, customer support)

ex:) Because Banana Herb Tea Supplement promotes rapid weight loss that results in the loss of muscle and lean body mass, it poses a potential danger to customers. (subtopics: loss of muscle mass effects, effects of rapid weight loss, overall health concerns)

ex:) Because half of all American elementary school children consume nine times the recommended daily allowance of sugar, schools should be required to replace the beverages in soda machines with healthy alternatives. (subtopics: facts about kids' sugar consumption, health risks from unhealthy sugar consumption, facts about healthy alternatives, effects of healthy alternatives)

ex:) Hunger persists in Africa because jobs are scarce and farming in the infertile soil is rarely profitable. (subtopics: jobs are scarce, the economy is below-par, infertile soil allows for less farming opportunities)