**Introduction**

An introduction is the first paragraph or two of an essay. It tells the reader what the essay is about and provides background for the **thesis** (main idea).

**A good introductory paragraph does several things:**

It makes the reader want to read the essay.

It tells the reader the overall topic of the essay.

It tells the reader the main idea of the essay (thesis).

**Background about the Topic**

Since the beginning of time, there have been teachers. The “classroom” teacher has many important tasks to do. A teacher has to teach information while keeping things interesting. She also sometimes has to be a referee, a coach, and a secretary. At times, a teacher has to be a nurse or just a good listener. **This career demands a lot, but it’s a career I most want to have.**

**Narrative**

My fourth grade teacher, Miss Vela, was not a big woman. She was about five feet tall and was no longer young. Even though she did not look very strong, she never had trouble controlling all her students. She could quiet us down with just a stare. We always wanted to make her happy because we knew how much Miss Vela cared about us. She expected us to do the best we could, and we all tried our hardest. **Miss Vela was the kind of teacher who made me know that I wanted to be a teacher.**

**Quotation**

“Teaching is better than tossing a pebble into a pond of water and watching those ripples move out from the middle. With teaching, you never know where those ripples will end.” I remember those words of my fourth grade teacher. Miss Vela once told me that years after they left her class, her students would come back to tell how much she helped them. Miss Vela’s students said that it was because of her that they learned to work hard and to feel proud of what they did. **I would like to teach because I would like to make that kind of difference.**

**Dramatic Statistics/Facts**

Three out of four people said that they thought it didn’t matter how many students were taught in one class. However, our class researched this and found that the opposite is true. Studies completed at a university show that having small class sizes, especially in the primary grades, makes a big difference in how much students learn. **Before we decide how many students to assign to a primary school teacher, we need to think more carefully about how important smaller class size is.**

**Shocking Statement**

Some teenagers today say that they think that wives should earn money and that husbands should help with child care and other household tasks. Recent studies indicate that 13 percent of teenage boys would prefer a wife to stay at home, while 96 percent of the teenage girls surveyed wanted to work outside of the home. **However, couples who marry today may have grown up in very traditional households and therefore may find it difficult to accept wives of equal, not to mention greater, job status.**

**Questions that Lead to the Thesis**

What exactly is “voice”? Is it a speaking voice or a singing voice? When someone says that they have a voice in their head but no way to get it out, what does that mean? **“Voice” has less to do with throats and mouths than it has to do with being human, being alive.**

**开头句型：**

下面是文章起头常用的一些句型，掌握这些句型，有助于你较快、较好地写好文章起头。

the (vast) majority of

most/many

quite a few

say

believe

claim

think

argue

When asked about

When it comes to

Faced with

1. …, people

as…

differently.

regard

view/see

think of

consider

conceive

that…, but other people …

development / improvement / rise / growth of…

general recognition / realization / acknowledgement of…

common interest in

women / children playing an increasingly big role

in society / family life,

1. With (the)

vast changes await this country’s society.

on

about

over

as to

today

nowadays

discussion

debate

controversy

general

much

public

1. There is a the issue

criticize

object to

of… . Those who … argue that…

advocate

favor

They believe that.., but people who …, on the other hand,

argue that…

general

widespread

growing

widely-held

Currently

In recent years

In the past few years

For many years now

is

has been

1. , there a (n)

feeling towards

concern over

attitude towards

trend towards

awareness of

realization of

illusion of

…

beginning

coming

getting

growing

ever-increasing

significant

1. Now people in numbers are to

believe

realize

recognize

understand

accept

see

be aware

that…

believed

thought

held

accepted

felt

recognized

acknowledged

commonly

widely

generally

increasingly

think

believe

1. Now, it is that …, they .., but

wonder

doubt

I whether…

teenagers

students

proportion

percentage

population

number

astonishing

increasing

sizable

significant

1. Recently there is a (n) of who…

study

survey

report

poll

recent

new

official

1. According to a (n) …

rise

increase

sudden

dramatic

sharp

marked

1. In the past 5 years there has been a in the

crime rate

divorce rate

teenage smoking

.

growing

increasing

surprising

considerable

In city after city across the country

At offices and plants across the country

1. , a (n)

number

amount

of …

problem

issue

question

brought to public attention

posed among people

in the limelight

1. Recently the of…has been

controversial

noteworthy

loomed

arisen

cropped up

1. The of…has now as .

problem

issue

trend

tendency

phenomenon

dangerous

disastrous

undesirable

1. Most for…is the … which is now

apparent

evident

obvious

epidemic

under way

untrue

foolish

dangerous

undesirable

basic

important

essential

emotion-arousing

idea

opinion

view

belief

notion

issue

trend

attitude

than

as

more

so

1. No is now the one that…

widely

commonly

generally

(which is now held by…)

idea

issue

change

evident

popular

Never in Chinese history

Nowhere in the world

1. has the of…been more than…