Writing the Introduction

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Agenda

- Presentation on your literature review
- Swap the works for editing suggestions
- Writing the Introduction
  - Some guidelines
  - Online courses

Three

Overarching Goals of a Good Introduction

1. To make sure you provide a clear and understandable summary of previous works on the subject to give a better understanding of the problem;

2. To explain why your own research fills in the gaps in literature and adds insufficient details to the topic;

3. To note all sorts of contributions (including policy, theoretical and empirical ones) of the research.

Convince the reader that your research is **needed** and **valid.**

A **goooooood** introduction

must include **motivation + research question/thesis statement + contribution.**

Introduction

Context
The problem you are addressing
Broad question or issue with some context

Your position / thesis statement
Your answer to the problem

Note: Thesis statement may come at end of the introduction

Main points
Overview of argument

In addition...

- Lead the reader from a generalized topic to a particular aspect
- Establish the main idea
- Identify the context or scope
- Provide the particular goal of the work
- Point out research importance or research gap
- State the contribution

By the end of your introduction, the reader must know what you are trying to achieve.

Optional

- May summarize background data on the topic
- May contain background knowledge and brief methodology
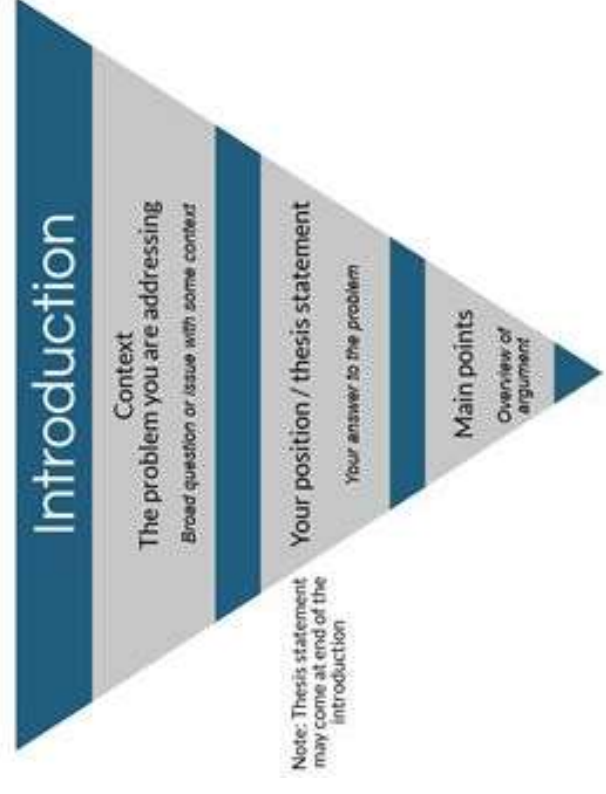- May describe how the rest of your thesis will be organized

The CONTENT of an INTRODUCTION

- Be logical
  - Good flow helps the reader follow your work easier. Nothing must come as a surprise to the reader.
- Be concise
  - Strong introduction contains key ideas only in few sentences straight to the point. The whole story is outlined in the introduction. The detail will be in the body section.
- Be formal
  - Academic writing demands formal writing style.
- Be credible
  - Review previous studies and support your arguments throughout.

Example

How has the music industry been affected by the internet and digital downloading?

The musical marketing turns to be digital according to demands of current online epoche. Such underground, but worldwide famous bands like Radiohead and IAMX gain profit from the internet and use it as a primary source to show the audience their creation. On the other hand, many artists find digital era harmful and destructive for their creativity because there are many sites that offer their product for free, giving no profit to the creator. Currently, there are more and more studies that reveal the business side of music industry far from a positive side. This research paper will define whether the culture of digital music consumption must be changed because the creations of musicians become worthless due to an activity of web pirates and because people have stopped valuing music according to its merit.

- First sentences hook readers
- The mid part of the introduction prove the reason of the research.
- The thesis statement puts debatable argument that needs further analysis and right solution.

Hook sentence

- Statistics or facts
- A literary quote
- A rhetorical question
- Simile or metaphor
- Allegory
- Anecdote or joke
- Quote of a famous person

Revisiting "Research questions"

Questions Should Have Complex Answers

- Bad: Does owning a pet improve quality of life for older people?
- Good: In what ways does owning a pet improve quality of life for older people?

Good Research Questions Need Focus

- Bad: Does medication help alleviate attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) symptoms? And do kids need more exercise?
- Good: How effective are the various types of medication in treating elementary students with ADHD?

Revisiting "Research questions"

You Can Answer a Good Question

- Bad: Is there a higher power in the universe?
- Good: What factors affect people's belief in a higher power?

Good Questions Don't Ask for Opinions

- Bad: Which national park is the bes?
- Good: What features do the most popular national parks have in common?

https://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-good-and-bad-research-questions.html

Revisiting "Research questions"

Questions Should Be Specific

- Bad: How do artificial sweeteners affect people?
- Good: How does aspartame affect post-menopausal women who suffer from migraines?

Good Research Questions Are Original

- Bad: What are the advantages and disadvantages of cell phone use in schools?
- Good: How does restricting cell phone use in school affect student social interaction?

Revisiting "Research questions"

A Good Question Doesn't Ask Why

- Bad: Why do some corporations pollute the water if they aren't regulated?
- Good: How do government regulations prevent corporations from polluting the water?

Great Questions Need Research

- Bad: Has the population of the world increased in the past century?
- Good: What factors have influenced population growth in the fastest growing countries?

Example of "Research Statement"

Wrong way: *"Downloading music from internet is bad and we must fight it."*

It leaves too many questions to answer. And this statement is a way too objective, it does not reflect the controversy of your topic. The truth is that there are no absolutely good or totally bad phenomenon. And your thesis statement must show the reality.

Right way: *The culture of digital music consumption must be changed because the creations of musicians become worthless due to activity of web pirates and people stop valuing music according to its merit ."*

In this example of thesis, I've narrowed my argument to consequences of digital music download on culture of music consumption. I've also focused on the fact that main harm for music industry present web pirates. It induces readers to assume that I will argue against them in the main body.

To check if you have created a debatable thesis statement for the research paper, you must figure out whether it is debatable. It means that you must make reader argue either for or against this statement.

Wrong way: *"The music industry has changed because of era of the internet."*

It is a statement, but not a thesis statement. It is a general truth. There is no point to argue with that fact. You can narrate about that, but not argue and make research to provide proper evidence to prove your point.

Right way: *"Free music download sites must become commercial because recording a music is a full-time job of musicians and every work must be rewarded."*

Now it is debatable. Opponents can argue that product that music product is not principal way to earn money for musicians, and internet is a the most effective way to promote their creation and lure audience to visit their concerts, what is a real way to earn money.

Avoid puzzlement. It means that you must not overdo with previous two thesis statement tips. It must be focused and debatable and should also show your side. In the latter example we can easily see that the writer is against free music download because it affects negatively on the work of music industry and he is going to prove why in the main body.

The famous first words

- The current study investigates the relationship between ....
- The focus of this study will be on ....
- The main purpose of this study is ....
- The objective of this research is to determine ....
- The present study is designed to examine ....
- The primary goal of this study is ....
- The primary concern of this research is ....
- The principal objective of this study is ....
- The purpose of this study is to address the problem of ....
- The purpose of the present study is ....
- The purpose of this study is to advance understanding of ....
- The purpose of this study is to determine ....
- The purpose of this study is to develop a conceptual model ....
- The purpose of this study is to evaluate ....
- The purpose of this study is to explore the ....
- The purpose of this study is to examine and better understand the effects of ....
- The purpose of this study is to inventory ....

- The purpose of this study is twofold. First, this study will assess the ...
- This research concentrates on ....
- The research problem for this study is to describe the ....
- The specific objectives of the present study are ....
- This study examines the relationships among ...
- There are several reasons for inquiring into ...
- This thesis explores the idea ....
- This thesis will deal with ....
- My thesis is...
- This investigation will explore ....
- This investigation represents an attempt to address several ...
- This paper is concerned with ....
- This paper will focus on ....
- This research represents an investigation into the problem of ....
- This research represents an attempt to test the effectiveness of ....
- This study examines ....
- This study has two purposes ....
- This study is concerned with ....
- This study is an attempt to ....
- This study is based on several assumptions ....
- This study is designed to replicate...

Alexander Ferworn

Read the articles of your choice.

See if the introductions are good.

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- Research, its historical development, and its role in society;
- Research methodology;

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