

“Things You Should Know” Introductory paragraph

The first paragraph should introduce the reader to the topic of your paper, and your voice should be present.

Remember, it is okay that you want something to be done about the hunger, homelessness, poverty, water, or pet crisis, and even though you are just informing your audience, it is OKAY TO BE PASSIONATE!

The introduction consists of three main elements: a hook, building sentences, and a thesis statement. Overall, your introduction should be between 4-6 sentences.

1. Hook--The first sentence (or sentences) of an essay should catch the reader’s attention. It introduces the topic of the essay in an interesting way.

- Quick Personal Story (anecdote)
- Saying
- Question (try to do so without using “you”)
- An analogy
- Definition

2. Building sentences-- After the hook, the following sentences should provide background information to give readers some context about the topic. They should “build” towards the thesis statement (what your “things” paper is about)

3. Thesis statement (aka MAIN IDEA statement)--The thesis statement comes at the end of the introduction. It is the most important sentence in the entire essay because it presents the paper’s topic and the writer’s position on that topic.

Your introduction should **not** have...facts. Save these for the paper itself.

The purpose of your introduction is to...

1. Create interest
2. Prepare your audience for what is in your “Things”
3. Showcase your voice as a writer (Be passionate!)

Let’s evaluate the Steph Curry sample on the back.

On the first day of preseason volleyball practice last year, Sydel Curry dislocated her knee cap. And with that, Elon's promising freshman setter was out for the year, using her redshirt season to rehabilitate her knee.

She returned in 2015 and had a solid season for the D1 Phoenix, and looks to be a key future building block for Elon. She comes from some of the very best sports DNA imaginable -- her dad, Dell, was a longtime NBA pro, and her mom, Sonya, played volleyball at Virginia Tech. Brother Seth played hoops at Duke.

Also, you may have heard of Steph Curry? He's Sydel Curry's older brother. Plays for the Golden State Warriors. He might win the [NBA MVP this year](#). As the Warriors gear up for a title run, his sister offered a new window into Stephen, as she refers to him.