

Introductions and Conclusions for Persuasive Essays

Read the following introductory paragraphs. Which paragraph you feel is the most effective and why. (Or if you feel none is very effective, explain why.)

- Sometimes you need to put a word, phrase, or sentence of transition between the intro and the thesis so the two flow smoothly together.
- Note how the thesis changes slightly in the examples below so that the introduction and the thesis flow together.

1. General to Specific. Usually fairly boring.

Drunk driving is very dangerous. It can cause accidents that kill or injure thousands of people every year. In fact, last year over 25,000 people died because people drink and drive. Therefore, legislation to revoke a drunk driver's license on the first offense should be passed.

2. Expert Quote

"Drinking kills more young drivers than any other cause," said John Smith, head of Highway Safety. "Their corpses scatter the highways of America every night." An effective solution to this problem is to pass legislation to revoke a drunk driver's license on the first offense.

3. Startling statistics

Imagine a line of dead and mangled bodies stretching for twenty-five miles—25,000 corpses. That is the number of victims of drunk drivers every year. Legislation to revoke a drunk driver's license on the first offense should be passed to eliminate this statistic.

4. Rhetorical Question [Remember, if you ask the question, you must answer it.]

What's the number one killer of young people between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one? Cancer? Heart disease? No. The main cause of dead young adults is alcohol—alcohol mixed with automobiles—a deadly combination. This killer can be eliminated by passing legislation to revoke a drunk driver's license on the first offense.

5. Description/Narration [Narration (telling a story) can either use dialogue or not use it,]

The young driver turns the stereo up louder and smiles as he dreams of the fun he had at the party—plenty of good music and beer. Suddenly a tree looms from out of nowhere. He grabs frantically at the wheel to turn the car. Headlights swerve in the darkness. But it's too late. A patrol car screams to find the twisted body of another teen who drank and drove. This scene does not need to be repeated. Legislation to revoke a drunk driver's license on the first offense should be passed to eliminate any such recurrence.

6. Other techniques you can use as introductory devices: **Scroll down for examples of these.**

- Paradox (two opposites that exist simultaneously)
- Freak lead
- Staccato
- Analogy (extended simile, metaphor)
- One word (needs to be a grabber!)
- Mood (horror, humor, romantic, etc.)

More SAMPLE INTROS

TOPIC: With the rising costs associated with attending college, some high school students wonder if the investment will make sense financially in the long run.

SUMMARY INTRODUCTION

Investing in education is wise as the average high school graduate makes \$28,645 compared to \$51,554 for those with a bachelor's degree and \$78,093 for those with an advanced degree, recent statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau shows.

QUESTION INTRODUCTION

With the rising costs of attending college, is it really worth the effort, time and expense? Absolutely. That's the word from the U.S. Census Bureau. The agency's latest statistics show the average high school graduate makes \$28,645 compared to \$51,554 for those with a bachelor's degree and \$78,093 for those with an advanced degree.

NARRATIVE INTRODUCTION

School just wasn't worth it for Terrell. He didn't like the teachers. Homework was a pain. Even if he did graduate from high school, he couldn't face the thought of college. Besides, he had a good job waiting for him now. He could get paid \$13.50 per hour with his uncle's construction company. A job would mean he could get that new set of wheels, have spending cash and improve his standing with the girls. Unfortunately for Terrell, research by the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that, in the long run, dropping out of school is a huge mistake. The average high school drop out earned \$19,169 per year, while college graduates averaged \$51,554.

FREAK INTRODUCTION

Go ahead, pick a door. Door # 1 has a big cash prize: \$766,760! Door # 2 has a bigger cash prize: \$1,145,800. Door # 3: \$2,062,160. And Door # 4: \$3,123,720. OK, you're not on a game show, and you don't really get to pick a door with a pot of cash. But you are a high school student in the game of life. And you will be picking a career path. Door # 1 represents the 40-year lifetime earning expectancy of a high school dropout at \$19,169 per year. Door # 2 represents what a high school graduate can expect (\$28,645 per year). Door # 3 is what awaits a college graduate (\$51,554 per year). Door # 4 represents the average lifetime income of a college graduate with an advanced degree, such as master's degree or Ph.D., (\$78,093).

STACATTO INTRODUCTION

Homework. Early classes. Tuition. Expenses. Gaining a good education isn't exactly convenient, but, according to the latest figures on career earnings from the government, it is definitely worth it.

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18 WAYS TO WRITE CONCLUSIONS—NOTE: *Restate the thesis is NOT on this list:*

1. Any technique you can use for an introduction, you can use for a conclusion, except for rhetorical questions. NEVER end an essay with a question. That's 10 different strategies!!!!!! Here's more...
2. Discuss the long term consequences if your thesis is not followed. ☐ Do both! See #4
3. State the short term consequences if your these is not followed. ☐
4. State BOTH short term and long term consequences
5. Explain how your topic is significant to your reader's life. Why should (s)he care? WARNING: Don't use you.
6. Provide solutions to the problems you bring up. Give alternatives that should be considered. Why are your solutions/alternatives the better option? Hit the home run here.
7. If you have a narrative (story) introduction, tell 1/2 the story in the intro, and tell the rest of the story in the conclusion.
8. Without using the word you, give a call for action. What actions, changes in beliefs do you want your reader to consider? Write Congress? Stop buying Styrofoam products? Invest in Google?