

Writing an introduction

The purpose of an introduction is to prepare the reader for the body of writing that comes after it. You know what you are writing about and why but unless you inform your readers of this in an introduction, they will feel lost and judge your essay to be an unclear piece of work!

An example of an Introduction 1

This essay is about the issue of body-checking in junior ice-hockey. First, arguments for a ban on body-checking are examined. Second, arguments against a ban are discussed. It is shown that pro-ban arguments are stronger than anti-ban arguments. Therefore, the thesis of this essay is that body-checking in junior ice-hockey should be banned.

Discussion first example

The topic-sentence could be improved. Rather than writing: "This essay is about..." it would be better to write a few topic sentences that convey a sense of the current state of the topic. This not only tells the reader what the topic is but it also gives the impression that you are knowledgeable about the topic and in command of your research material.

An example of an Introduction 2

Body-checking has always been a controversial issue. However, the recent decision of Hockey Canada to allow some hockey associations to permit body-checking among players as young as nine years of age, on an experimental basis, has aggravated the controversy quite considerably in recent months. Perspectives fall into three main categories which include the viewpoints of fans, the official standpoint of Hockey Canada, and positions held by the scientific community. Evaluation of the main arguments shows quite clearly that Hockey Canada's decision to allow body-checking in some junior games, even on an experimental basis, is a serious mistake.

Discussion example two

In this second introduction, the topic-sentences give an impression of the current state of the topic (and, so, conveys the topic of the essay to the reader) without using the words essay or topic. The structure-sentences inform the reader of the main parts of the body of the essay and their order of discussion (views of fans, Hockey Canada, and scientific community) without using many organisational words.

The last part tells the reader where you stand on the issue and how you arrived at your position (through evaluation of the main arguments for and against a ban), without including words such as essay.