INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

Definition: The introduction is the broad statement that starts the reading and answers three important questions:

- What is this paper about?
- Why are **you** writing this paper (what is the **purpose**)?
- What do you want to communicate? How broad or general is your approach to the topic?

You should answer these **questions** by doing the following:

- *Set the context* – provide general information about the main idea, explaining the situation so the reader can make sense of the topic and the claims that you make and support.
- *State why the main idea is important* – tell the reader why he or she should keep reading. Your goal is to create a clear, compelling, and convincing essay that people will want to read or act upon.
- *State your thesis/claim* – compose a sentence or two stating the position you will support.

A good opening sentence is **key**. The statement that captures the reader's attention is known as the *hook* of your essay. Note that you should mention only things that are going to be discussed in the essay.

DO'S	DON'TS
Start with an interesting first sentence. Make sure it is useful and convincing information.	Never show insecurity regarding the information you will be presenting. Ex. In my opinion, I'm not sure about this, but...
Be straightforward and confident, remember that this will be the reader's first impression.	Don't announce your intentions or purpose of your work. Ex. In this essay I will…, The purpose of this essay is to...
Present the concepts and topics that will be discussed in the paragraphs that follow.	Use a dictionary or encyclopedia definition . Ex. Entrepreneurship is defined by Merriam-Webster's WWWebster Dictionary as...

EXERCISE

Fill out the outline using key phrases and concepts for your introductory paragraph.

Thesis Statement:_____

Introductory Sentence:_____

Hook (Capture the reader's attention): _____

Introduction of your main topic: _____

After drafting and organizing your key phrases, you can plot out complete sentences and form an introductory paragraph