**Formatting Introduction Paragraphs**

Whatever your style, you'll put your thesis at the end of the paragraph and some important background information directly before. But that still leaves the very beginning. Contrary to what you may have been taught, introductions shouldn’t begin with a "general statement." So what are some different ways to start that first sentence?

* + - * 1. **Attention Getter-**the purpose of your attention getter should be to gain your readers attention. Think about some of your favorite books or movies. Usually, the good ones will hook us right from the beginning. This should be the same with your paper.
        2. **Types of Attention Getters:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rhetorical questions | Questions you ask the audience, but do not expect an answer  Example- Have you ever stood in a freezing river at 5 o'clock in the morning by choice? |
| Humor | Humor helps lighten the atmosphere, and allows you to make your next points after becoming more personal with your audience.  Example-"I'm feeling boxed in." [PAUSE] I'm not sure, but these may have been Henry "Box" Brown's very words after being placed on his head inside a box which measured 3 feet by 2 feet by 2 1\2 feet for what seemed to him like "an hour and a half." Adams Express shipped him to freedom in Philadelphia. |
| Story | * Real, hypothetical, personal or not -- keep it simple * The content of a story can be endless. You could talk about a past trip, a funny experience, or last year’s Christmas dinner at home; it can be anything. The only requirement is for the topic to be relevant to your presentation. The key here is to make sure the connection between your story and the beginning is clear and flows like water.   Example- The crowd was wild. The music was booming. The sun was shining. The cash registers were ringing. |
| Startling statement/statistic | Make it interesting; be factual; have it apply to them  Example- “Since 1973, over 130 people have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence.” |
| Adapting to Audience | Making a statistic/number, story, fact, etc. apply to your audience. Instead of saying 20,000 people die each year - make that number relative to the lives of our audience.  Example- “In Illinois, traffic crashes are the single greatest cause of death for the 15-20 year old age group.” |
| Quotation | Borrowing someone else's words to lend you credibility  Example-"I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand.  It's when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what.  You rarely win, but sometimes you do” (Lee). |

* + - * 1. **Example Attention Getter:**

Startling statistic combined with Adapting to Audience

**Example Attention Getter:**

**The World Health Organization believes, “that the increases in the average temperatures that have occurred since the 1970s are responsible for at least 150, 000 extra deaths a year—a figure that will double by 2030” (“Climate Change Impacts”). To bring this closer to home, “In 1995, Chicago suffered a heat wave that killed more than 700 people. Chicagoans could experience that kind of relentless heat up to three times a year by 2100” (“Climate Change Impacts”).**

* 1. *Linking Statement and Introduction of Topic* 
     1. The link is 2nd section of the introduction that bridges/connects the attention getter and the thesis together.
     2. The linking statement must link your attention getter to your argumentative research topic. Remember, you are trying to “make sense” of your attention getter. Why did you just say what you did? How does it relate to your essay?
     3. Usually, the linking statement will be about 1-2 sentences in length.
     4. *Example Linking Statement:* 
        1. *All across the world, and even in Illinois, global temperatures have risen, over the past few years, to a threatening level that has never been seen before. This global warming effect has begun and will continue to terrorize humankind.*
  2. Background Information
     1. The introductory paragraph must provide background information that is necessary for the reader to appreciate the writer’s position.
     2. This information can be scientific, historical, cultural, or even personal.
     3. Use this when you know there are things that the reader needs to know about your topic (but doesn’t’) in order to “get” your thesis statement. For example, a definition or understanding of what your topic is.
     4. Be careful do not provide excessive and irrelevant information.
     5. Example Background Information: According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Global warming is an average increase in the temperature of the atmosphere near the Earth’s surface and in the troposphere, which can contribute to changes in global climate patterns”(“What is Global Warming”). Natural events and human activities are contributing to an increase in average global temperatures. This is caused primarily by increases in “greenhouse” gases such as Carbon Dioxide (CO2). A warming planet thus leads to a change in climate, which can affect weather, plants, animals, bacteria, and even humans in various ways.
  3. ***Thesis Statement***
     1. Remember: ***Thesis*** = Topic + Claim + Main Points
     2. ***Example Thesis:***
        1. ***Global warming threatens humankind because it spreads disease, increases deadly acts of Mother Nature, and causes death to animal and plant life.***

**Example Introduction:**

**The World Health Organization believes, “that the increases in the average temperatures that have occurred since the 1970s are responsible for at least 150, 000 extra deaths a year—a figure that will double by 2030” (“Climate Change Impacts”). To bring this closer to home, “In 1995, Chicago suffered a heat wave that killed more than 700 people. Chicagoans could experience that kind of relentless heat up to three times a year by 2100” (“Climate Change Impacts”).** *All across the world, and even in Illinois, global temperatures have risen, over the past few years, to a threatening level that has never been seen before. This global warming effect has begun and will continue to terrorize humankind.* According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Global warming is an average increase in the temperature of the atmosphere near the Earth’s surface and in the troposphere, which can contribute to changes in global climate patterns”(“What is Global Warming”). Natural events and human activities are contributing to an increase in average global temperatures. This is caused primarily by increases in “greenhouse” gases such as Carbon Dioxide (CO2). A warming planet thus leads to a change in climate, which can affect weather, plants, animals, bacteria, and even humans in various ways. ***Global warming threatens humankind because it spreads disease, increases deadly acts of Mother Nature, and is causing death to animal and plant life.***

1. Clearly, this essay will argue how global warming threatens humankind. The writer has also given us their main points (spreads disease, increases deadly acts of Mother Nature, and causing death to animal and plant life) for this essay. The writer has **Defined** the topic and **Divided** the topic into main points.
2. **The Four D's**
   1. Define. (Intro)
   2. Divide. (Intro)
   3. Discuss. (Body)
   4. Drive Home. (Conclusion)