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Writing an Introduction

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This article aims to give writers the tools to create an engaging and effective introduction. A strong introduction sets the tone and captures the reader's interest, whether you're writing an academic paper, a creative piece, or a professional document.

Introducing the Introduction

Some writers can instantly establish a connection with readers, while others struggle to draw people in. A strong introduction should include a **hook**, a **topic**, and a **thesis statement**. The hook is the first sentence or question that catches the reader's interest and makes them want to read the rest of your paper. The topic gives the reader the background knowledge they need to understand the subject. Finally, the thesis statement informs the reader of the paper's main argument and serves as a map for the reader. The importance of a strong introduction cannot be overstated. It's the writer's first chance to make an impact, and it can significantly influence how the reader interacts with the rest of the paper. Finding the right balance between drawing the reader in and providing context is crucial to writing an introduction. Ultimately, strong openings prepare readers for what comes next by guiding them into the text's main body paragraphs.

Giving Your Readers a Taste

To start an introduction, write a compelling hook by beginning with an anecdote, question, or quote. An anecdote is a brief story about something personal that humanizes your writing. A question may be used to engage your audience and pique their curiosity. Or, you might include a relevant quote to include the insights of a historical or other relevant figure and demonstrate your authority to write on this subject.

Part of the purpose of your introduction is to situate your reader in the context of your topic. Giving the necessary background information to introduce the topic and highlight its relevance will help the reader understand why it's significant and why they should care.

A thesis statement is a single sentence stating your main argument, which you will then spend the rest of the paper defending. In your thesis, the audience should understand the *What* (What are you arguing?), the *How* (How will you show or prove it?), and the *Why* (Why is it significant?).

Examples

Effective Hooks

Anecdote:

I remember riding to town with my dad and our many talks about the value of leadership.

Question:

What is the difference between successful leaders and unsuccessful leaders?

Quote:

The core of forward-thinking leadership could be summed up by Franklin D. Roosevelt when he said, 'The only limit to our realization of tomorrow is our doubts of today.'

Creating Context

This example shows how context is important because it establishes the historical context of space travel. This information will help convince your readers of your argument's legitimacy.

Investigating the circumstances leading up to the Apollo 11 mission is essential when studying the history of space travel. The space race symbolized technological superiority and national pride against Cold War tensions between the US and the USSR. Each significant event, such as the 1957 launch of Sputnik and the 1958 founding of NASA, cleared the path for the initial landing on the moon.

An Academic Thesis

The Apollo 11 mission not only accomplished the achievement of setting foot on the moon, but it also demonstrated the unparalleled power of human cooperation, creativity, and perseverance in the face of overwhelming obstacles.

Tips

1. Recognize your audience. Identify the primary readers for your topic and write an introduction that appeals to their knowledge base and areas of interest.
2. Be concise. Steer clear of extra information that doesn't directly support your argument.
3. Emphasize your argument's uniqueness. If there has been a lot of discussion or research on your topic, highlighting your original contribution can help grab readers' attention.
4. Rewrite and edit. Give your introduction a thorough revision. Make sure it sets up your ideas within a clear structure, flows well, and is error-free in grammar.

Works Consulted

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