



MAKING INTRODUCTIONS

The introduction is the first part of your paper. It generates interest, helps your reader become more familiar with your main topic, and ends with your thesis or main idea. Starting off with a strong introduction will lead to a strong paper.

- **Find a quote that relates to your subject.** For example, if you're writing an essay about the problems that arise from a person being overworked and needing a career change, you can begin the paper with the following relevant quote:

Ex. Mark Twain once said, "Work is a necessary evil to be avoided."

- **Start with an interesting or surprising fact.** While researching your topic, you may come across a fact that grabbed your attention. Was there something that shocked or intrigued you? Use this fact to get your reader interested.

Ex. According to the United States Labor Department, just last month, there were four million job "separations." Many workers leave their place of employment for various reasons.

- **Begin with a question.** Sometimes it's good to spark the reader's interest in your topic by asking him or her a question that will connect the topic to his or her daily life.

Ex. Are you fed up with that annoying, buzzing alarm clock every morning? Are you tired of wasting sunny days only to be caged in a cubicle forty hours a week? Well, maybe you need a change. It's finally time to find a job that matches your lifestyle.

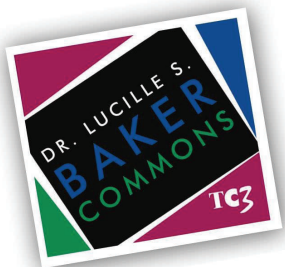
- **Try using an anecdote.** An anecdote is a short, interesting or amusing story that relates to your topic. Using an anecdote can help foreshadow the topics you will discuss in the rest of the essay.

Ex. At the age of twenty-six, Susan Franklin was miserable eight hours a day, six days a week, almost three-hundred days a year: she hated her job. Even more than disliking her coworkers, the Saturday call-ins, missing time spent with her friends and family, she could not stand the fact that she hadn't been courageous enough to simply say, "That's it! I'm looking for another job."

- **End with a thesis statement.**

A strong introduction always includes a thesis statement at the end, which includes the main points of the paper.

Ex. An ideal job is one that is matched to the individual's skills, interests, and goals.



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