

Writing introductions

Your introduction is a very important part of your essay as it serves several key purposes.

Include:

An explanation of how you intend to address the question.

- Show how you interpret the question
- State which relevant issues / topics you are going to include
- Clarify what the question is asking you to do

A brief outline of how you are going to organise your essay.

- Guides the reader through the different parts of your essay
- Gives you a clear sense of the organisation and direction of the essay

Always check that your essay does exactly what your introduction says it is going to do.

Depending on your discipline, you may need to include:

A definition of some of the words in the title.

- Give clear definitions and possibly a justification for your choice of definition

A brief statement to show some background knowledge of the topic, or the literature relating to the topic.

- Situate your work within a context e.g. historical perspective, overview of recent literature