Introductions

The purpose of an introduction is to:

1. Get the readers’ attention. This is where you want to catch the readers off guard, make them think.¹
2. Set the tone of the work, whether it is serious, humorous, academic, etc.¹
3. State the thesis. This usually goes at the end of the introduction.¹

There are many ways to begin writing a thesis. It is difficult to decide how to start your paper, but to create an effective introduction, you need to decide what type of work you are writing. Look at the tone you set in the beginning and any requirements that go with the paper you are writing. This will help you rule out some of the various choices.

Ways to begin your introduction:

1. One way to begin an introduction is to write a small example to get readers invested in your work, which is known as an anecdote.¹ Small typically means a few sentences. You don’t want your story stretching the length of the first page. You want to make it detailed enough to catch the reader, but not take up too much space. You also want to make sure it is related to your topic.

2. There may be an unusual idea related to your topic that you would like to share with your reader. You can use this as the base of your introduction.

3. A third way to introduce your topic to the reader is to state your opinion on an issue.¹ You want to make this issue relevant to the topic you are discussing and to keep yourself from preaching at the reader.

When writing an introduction, you want to keep the readers from resenting your work from the beginning, but you also want to get their attention. You need to balance facts and fun to catch the reader without straying from your topic or bogging them down with unnecessary information. The keys to writing an introduction are moderation and knowing your reader.