**Introductory Paragraph**

**The introductory paragraph should do two things:**

* Attract the reader's interest.
* **Present a thesis sentence**; which is a clear, direct statement of the central idea that you will develop in your essay. The thesis statement, like a topic sentence, should have keywords or a keyword reflecting your attitude about the subject.

**Common Methods of Introduction are:**

* **Broad Statement -** Begin with a general, broad statement of your topic and narrow it down to your thesis statement.
* **Contrast** - Start with an idea or situation that is the opposite of the one you will develop. This approach works because the reader will be surprised, then intrigued by the contrast between the opening idea and the thesis that follows.
* **Relevance** - Explain the importance of your topic. If you can convince the reader that the subject applies to them in some way**,** or it is something he or she should know.
* **Anecdote** - Use an incident or brief story. Stories are naturally interesting and they appeal to the reader's curiosity. In your introduction, an anecdote will grab the reader's attention right away. You should keep the story brief and related to your thesis.
* **Questions** - Ask your readers one or more questions. These questions can catch the reader's interest and make them want to read on.
* **Quotation** - A quotation can be something you have read in a book or an article. It can be something you have heard, a popular saying, or maybe a proverb. Using a quotation in the introductory paragraph lets you add someone else's voice to your own.