**Preparing an Introduction & Thesis Statement**

As we discussed in class, introductions are well organized and clearly stated first paragraphs of your essay. It has two main goals:

* Grab the reader’s attention
* To have a clear sentence that tells the reader what the entire paper is going to be about. This sentence is called a thesis statement or thesis.

In fact, there are two different ways to create an introduction/thesis.

1. Introduction with a mapping thesis
2. Introduction with a generalized thesis statement

Examples of introductions and thesis statements can be seen and heard in all documents and even television programs. For instance, one program, “Intimate Portrait” that airs on Lifetime television uses introductions with a thesis statement in each of their programs. One example is as follows:

1. **Mapping Thesis Example:**

Her portrayal of Maggie Seaver on Growing Pains made her one of the best known television moms ever, but she is not your everyday housewife. Joanna Kerns is an accomplished actress, director, writer, and real-life mom. She was one of the first working moms on tv, and ended up being a working mom herself.

What is the attention grabber in this introduction? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the thesis statement of this introduction? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Notice that the thesis statement actually **lists** or **maps** out what each paragraph of the paper would discuss. Think of this kind of thesis likes a map.



Whatever order the information is presented in the thesis statement, then that is the order the paragraphs of the body have to be presented in the paper. Thus, if this Joanna Kerns example was a paper about her life, I would expect to find the body of this paper presented in the following order:

Paragraph 1 = accomplished actress

Paragraph 2 = director

Paragraph 3= writer

Paragraph 4 = real life mom.

Notice that the thesis statement maps out what order the paper will be in. However, this is not the only way to write an introduction/thesis statement.

1. **Introduction with a generalized thesis statement:**

Joanna Kerns first gained fame by portraying Maggie Seaver on the tv show “Growing Pains”; however, Kerns is not just known for her acting ability. She is a woman who is multi-talented and wears many hats in real life.

Notice that I communicated the same ideas in this introduction without using a mapping thesis. Instead, I used a thesis statement that is general or generic.

What is the attention grabber? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the thesis statement? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_