

Writing Introductions to Academic Texts

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A good introduction has a clear structure

1. Background Description (situation)

- ▶ What is the state of the field regarding to your topic right now?
- ▶ Introduces key terms and key words that are important to the topic

2. Description of Controversy (problem)

- ▶ What is not clear relating to the topic?
- ▶ Where do academics / experts in the field disagree?
- ▶ Which knowledge gaps can still be identified?

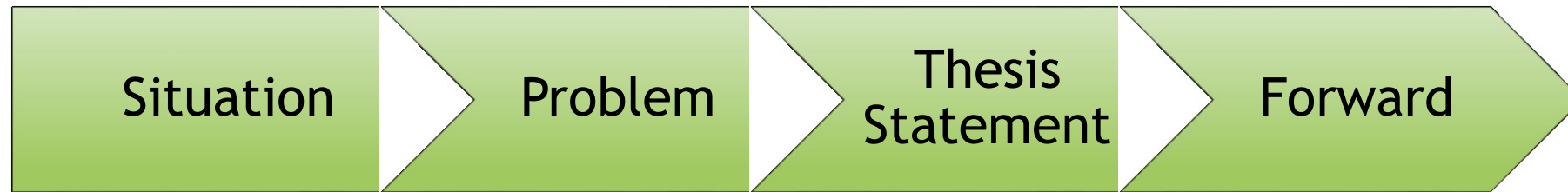
3. Introduction of the Thesis Statement (why is that a problem)

- ▶ Based on the identified controversy / knowledge gap, what will be your main idea / argument?
- ▶ Possibly includes a brief explanation of the main argument

4. Forward

- ▶ Describes to the reader which sub-topics will be dealt with to cover the main argument
- ▶ Provided the reader with a road-map of your essay
- ▶ The forward is based on your sub-questions

A Structural Overview of an Introduction



Identify the components of the following introduction:

Historians generally concentrate on the twenty year period between 1763 and 1783 as the period which constitutes the American Revolution in which many ordinary working Americans played an essential part.

However, the involvement of these Americans is not often properly taken into account by historians who most often concentrate on the roles played by key historical figures instead.

This paper will argue that the nature and aims of the actions of working people are difficult to assess as their roles frequently changed depending on the phase that was played out in the American Revolution.

First the pre-revolutionary period will be assessed when working people responded to Britain's authority related to such issues as unjustified taxes and the scarcity of land. In the second part of the paper the post 1776 period will be described when their actions became more revolutionary.

A (bad) Student Example of an Introduction:

Nowadays genetically modified food is no more a curiosity and farmers have to take stock of these new technologies . The plants should be high-yield and the fruits and vegetables should look bigger and healthier to entice customers in the supermarket. In the USA is 70% of food is genetically modified, so GM food is part of everyday life. In the USA genetically modified plants growing on 50 billion hectare field, in Canada 6 billion and in Argentina and Brazil approximately 26,5 billion hectare. The technology is technically mature because the farmers don't depend on ransom's because the researcher searching for genes which are charge for particular characteristic's. These genes can find in any other plants or actually in animals or human. That followed the desire gene will be cut off via particular enzymes and build into the plants which should have the characteristic. The GM food technology is irresistible so the main question is what impacts do the increasing GM food technology have on the economy ?