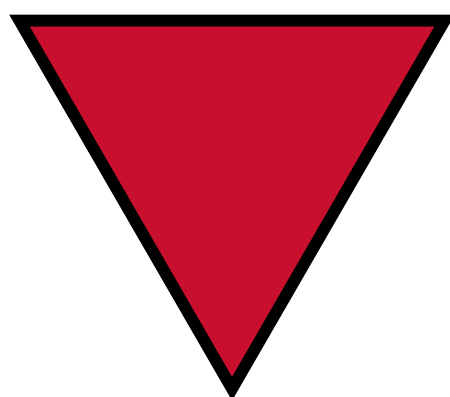


WRITING AN INTRODUCTION

TIPS FROM THE CARTHAGE WRITING FELLOWS

WHAT SHOULD A GOOD INTRODUCTION LOOK LIKE?

Your introduction should be like a funnel. Start broad before getting more specific about your topic and argument, ending with your thesis statement



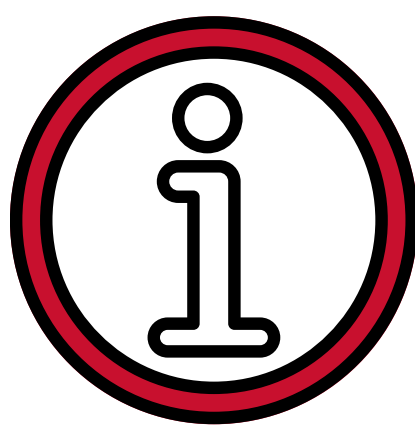
ATTENTION-GETTER

The introduction is the first thing a potential reader will see, so start your introduction with something that will grab your reader's interest. This does not have to be anything too out of the ordinary; even an interesting fact or statistic related to your topic can be enough to draw a reader in.



TOPIC BACKGROUND

What will a reader need to know about your topic to be able to best understand your argument? For example, if you are writing about a book, you could introduce the author, setting, characters, or whatever is most relevant to what you discuss in the rest of the paper.



THESIS STATEMENT

Typically, the last sentence of your introduction will be your thesis statement. This tells the reader what you will be arguing and connecting back to throughout your entire essay.



AN INTRODUCTION SHOULD:

- Inform the reader of your topic area
- Give enough background information for your reader to understand the topic
- Inform the reader of the argument for the paper

