



Writing Better Introductions and Conclusions



Introductions

Hook/Topic	
Basic background (context, terminology)	
Purpose of paper Or Research question	
Thesis	
Main points (map of argument)	

Conclusions

Sum up or review main points (explain how they support thesis)	
Re-examine thesis	
Explain significance or implications of argument	

Writing Better Body Paragraphs

Paragraph Structure

A paragraph develops one clear idea using evidence and analysis. Supporting arguments may be developed by multiple paragraphs.

Main Idea or Topic Sentence	
Evidence (e.g., data, examples, summarized ideas, quotation)	
Analysis (i.e., explanation of evidence – how does it demonstrate the idea of the paragraph?)	
Conclusion or Link to thesis	

Common Transitional Words and Phrases

Adding Ideas: also, and, as well as, equally important, finally, first (second, third, etc.), furthermore, in addition, equally important, likewise, more, moreover, next, similarly, too

Emphasizing Ideas: above all, indeed, in fact, in particular, most important, of course

Illustrating Ideas: an illustration of, for example, for instance, in particular, namely, specifically, such as, that is, thus, to illustrate

Comparing Ideas: in the same way, likewise, similarly

Contrasting Ideas: but, conversely, despite, even so, however, in contrast, in spite of, nevertheless, on the contrary, or, otherwise, rather, regardless, still, though, yet

Showing Cause and Effect: accordingly, as a result, consequently, hence, so, then, therefore, thereupon, thus, to this end, with this object

Summarizing Ideas: all in all, altogether, as has been noted, finally, in brief, in conclusion, in other words, in short, in simpler terms, in summary, on the whole, that is, to put it differently, to summarize