

# YORKWAC Infobase

## Planning Your Introduction

Every writing assignment needs an introductory paragraph. Here are some pointers for planning your introduction.

Your introduction needs to answer several basic questions:

1. *What are you writing about?*

Tell the reader what your general topic is.

2. *Why are you writing about it?*

Tell the reader your purpose in writing the paper.

3. *What's your thesis?*

Provide your reader with a concise statement of your main contention. A good thesis is *controversial*. That means it is a statement that somebody might disagree with.

4. *What's coming up?*

Lay out the overall plan of your paper for the reader.

*Example of an introductory paragraph:*

This essay is about the emission of greenhouse gases. My objective is to explore policy options and argue in favor of a cap and trade system for controlling emissions. My thesis is that a cap and trade system is the best policy option because it addresses the needs of both environmentalists and free marketeers. On the following pages, I will define the problem of greenhouse gas emissions, list the major alternatives for reducing them, and explain why a cap and trade system is the best choice for the United States.

The **YORKWAC Infobase** includes many other Infosheets that can help you with your writing assignment.

If you want more information on organizing your paper, you might want to try:

Infosheet #1, Organizing Your Paper

Infosheet #3, Planning the Body of Your Paper

Infosheet #4, Planning Your Conclusion

Infosheet #6, Developing a Thesis Statement