# Introduction and Conclusion

# What is an introduction?

An introduction is the first paragraph which sets up the scope of the essay and contains the thesis statement. An introductory paragraph is not the same as a body paragraph, but it should give a brief overview of the main ideas that will be discussed in detail within the body of the essay. In other words, every sentence in the introduction should relate to the thesis. Themes and tones throughout the entire essay will also appear first in the introduction. Think of an introduction as an upside-down triangle, moving from the overall ideas of your essay to the main point, your thesis.

* Start broad. “Lead in” with a hook sentence that will catch the readers’ interest. Use a quotation, provocative statement, question, statistical fact, etc.
* Set up the topic. In a few sentences, include related information about the topic which readers needs to know to understand the body of your essay, including titles, names, definitions, background information, vivid descriptions, opposing views, etc.
* Make a point.A thesis statement is a narrow, carefully worded, arguable claim that tells the reader what will be proved in the body paragraphs. It is typically located at the end of the introduction.

Note: Body paragraphs should be presented in a logical order, sometimes in the order that the thesis presents the information.

# What is a conclusion?

A concluding paragraph should in some ways mirror the introductory paragraph. The themes, tone, and language should be consistent with the introduction and body paragraphs. Conclusions do not contain any new information and should not contradict the thesis statement. Think of the conclusion as a triangle, going from the main point to the general purpose of the essay.

* Include main points from the thesis. Do not copy the thesis word-for-

word. It should be discussed in a way that has already been proven.

* Reflect on the information. Explain why it is important to know, give a suggestion, or open the conversation to others. Make the reader think more about the topic.
* Refer to the “Hook” statement, i.e. the quote, statistic, provocative statement, or questions, set up in the introduction
* Close the essay. Give a closing statement, which can be a prediction, suggestion, or call to action.

# Example Introduction

July was hot, and I was drawn to the creek near my house. It seemed like a good until I stumbled upon two large, yellow eyes looking right at me. “Run!” was all I remembered saying to myself, but before I could react, the creature bounded into the tree line and out of sight. Humans fear the natural world. Out of all the species that live on Earth, humans have altered their surroundings the most with roaring vehicles, air conditioning, and even convenient disposable plastic items. Edward O. Wilson and Neil Shubin non-fiction sets up our physical connection to Earth and everything on it. They argue that the planetary effect of humankind has becoming dangerously intrusive, causing loss of natural habitats. It took this experience for me to realize it is up to individuals to educate themselves about our own role in nature. Coming face-to-face with a mountain lion was the moment I began to understand my true place in the world as both predator and prey.

# Example Conclusion

Human beings are some of the most dangerous predators on the planet. I remember the bone-shaking, heart pounding vulnerability I felt, yet I never considered the fear that the mountain lion had for humans. Human fears and needs are not much different than those of the lion or any other creature in the area. We all live on Earth, but humans are the ones who daily affect the survival of every species. Neil Shubin and Edward O. Wilson’s arguments only proves what I learned that day. We are all interconnected with the planet and its creatures, and despite our elementary understanding of nature and our blown-up sense of self-importance, we have become a large factor in the destruction of nature. Humans fear the natural world when it is the natural world that should fear us.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. This example introduction and conclusion was taken from a student written narrative essay. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)