



Introductions

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructor: _____ Course: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: All the activities (4) in this DLA must be completed in their entirety before meeting with a tutor and receiving credit. Where indicated, complete your work on this sheet.

Objective: Writing the introductory paragraph is often one of the trickiest parts of writing an essay. One reason for this difficulty is that writers have several jobs to do in the introduction. Writers must:

1. Grab the reader's attention;
2. Introduce the topic and bring the reader into the conversation (the bridge);
3. State the thesis.

In this activity you will learn various introductory strategies for specific essay topics and practice writing effective introductions that meet the above-mentioned criteria.

Activities (approximately 45 minutes): This self-directed activity familiarizes you with crafting an effective introduction through handouts and other independent activities and will culminate in meeting with a tutor to review the activity. Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

- 1. Before proceeding, please review the attached handout on introductory paragraphs.
- 2. Read the following introductory paragraph; then underline and label the different elements of an introduction: hook (grabs the reader's attention), the bridge (takes the reader from the introductory sentences to the thesis) and finally the thesis (controls the entire essay).

According to the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) website, 10, 839 people will die in a drunk driving accident this year alone. This staggering statistic highlights the fact that the state of California, along with the rest of the nation, has a problem with society involving drinking and driving. Prohibition is not the answer, as history has demonstrated. But there is a practical answer to be found in a law. The legal BAC (blood-alcohol concentration) while driving should be lowered from .08 percent to .04 percent for three strong reasons.

3. Choose **ONE** of the five topics below and write an introduction on a separate sheet of paper. When writing, make sure to include, the hook, bridge and thesis statement.
1. Discuss the reasons people form cliques or the effects of cliques on those inside and outside the group.
 2. Discuss the reasons for the growing population of homeless in the U.S.
 3. Discuss a challenge you have faced in your life, focusing on the way it has affected you and the way in which you have overcome it.
 4. Analyze the effects of parental expectations on you or another person.
 5. Analyze the reasons you have set a particular goal.
- 4a. Locate an essay you have previously written or one you are presently working on and identify the previously-mentioned elements of an introduction. If you are missing any or all of the three pieces or are unhappy with any part of your introduction, revise it to include the three different tenets of an introduction. Bring your essay with the added identifying marks and revisions with you to the tutoring session.

If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (4b).

- 4b. Read the following sample introduction. Rewrite it on the sheet of paper you used to draft the earlier introduction (3). When you revise, first figure which of the three elements needs revision. Then, revise accordingly. Be prepared to tell your tutor both what you thought needed revision and why you revised it accordingly.

When it comes to school, we have friends, clubs, assignments and professors come to our mind, and there is no doubt that students are the major group of a school. As part of the school, one can either be a passive student or not, but there is something different between the active students and the passive student.

5. **Review:** Sign-up to see a tutor on the “**DLA Walk-in**” list (located in the computer lab). During your session with a tutor, review steps 1-4 from above. Explain the choices you have made for each section. You and the tutor may then discuss any alternative strategies for each.

Student’s signature: _____ Date: _____

Tutor’s signature: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: All the activities (4) in this DLA must be completed in their entirety before meeting with a tutor and receiving credit. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor’s signature included.