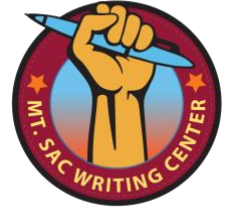


# The Writing Center

## DLA: Introductions



This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

**YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER.**

**Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.**

Student Name:

### Important Note

To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

### Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

### Understanding the Introductory Paragraph

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

Although there is no set formula for writing a successful introduction, here are some suggestions to consider.

### Part One: Grab the Reader's Attention

Here are some techniques to get the paper started. Remember, use a technique that is **ACTUALLY** interesting and not overused or cliché.

- Begin with a statistic
- Cite a relevant quotation
- Relate a personal anecdote
- Begin with a dramatic narrative
- Pose a provocative question
- Give an amazing or unusual fact
- Offer a bold opinion
- Use dialogue
- Start off by defining the problem

\*PLEASE NOTE: Defining a term is not listed above. If a definition is used to start a paper, it must be interesting. Giving a dictionary definition does not usually interest the audience in reading further.

## Part Two: Introduce the Topic and Bring the Reader into the Conversation

This section is the “guts” of an introduction. Here the writer will introduce the specifics about the topic of the essay. Often times, writers will vaguely or loosely discuss related ideas to their topic; avoid this when possible. For example, when writing a paper about *Romeo and Juliet*, specific information should be given about the play that pertains to the particular topic of the essay and also the discussion going on about the particular take on the topic. DO NOT summarize what love is!

## Part Three: State the Thesis

The thesis statement sums up the paper’s main idea in one or two sentences. It is recommended to write a preliminary thesis statement, which is an early version of the final thesis, to use as guide for the first draft. After writing the first two parts of an introduction, a writer may build on his preliminary thesis statement and use it as a final thesis statement. Remember that a thesis should be specific and should state the essay’s topic as well as the opinion of the topic. For example, the thesis of a paper on *Romeo and Juliet* might sound like this: The actions of the protagonists in *Romeo and Juliet* reflect the two reoccurring themes love and sacrifice.

## Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

### 1. Label an Introduction

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.

## □ 2. Write an Introduction

Choose **ONE** of the five topics below and write an introduction on the space provided below. 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.

## Choose 3a or 3b Below

### □ 3a. Revise Your Own Writing

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 (3b).**

### □ 3b. Rewrite an Introduction

Read the following sample introduction. Rewrite it on the space provide below. When you revise, first figure which of the three elements needs revision. Then, revise accordingly. Be prepared to tell your specialist 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.

### □ 4. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit

1. Go to [EAB Navigate](#) and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you've learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the "appointment summary report" through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under "appointment summary reports" (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is "completed" or "not completed." If it is marked as "not completed," book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at [writingcenter@mtsac.edu](mailto:writingcenter@mtsac.edu) or (909) 274-5325.

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center's website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, [access@mtsac.edu](mailto:access@mtsac.edu), (909) 274-4290.

**Revised November 2025**