



Introductions

Introductions are essential for most of your assignments and usually use about 10% of the full word count. The introduction usually:

- begins with a general statement about the topic, and provides background information where necessary;
- sums up in one or two statements the overall purpose or your position related to the task;
- specifies the scope of your assignment, i.e. what limits have been set regarding the aspects/ issues/factors covered in the body;
- outlines the structure of your assignment, i.e. what main points have been included in the body and what order they are in, and

Tips

- You might find it easier to draft the introduction **after** you have written the body of your assignment, because by then you will have a clearer idea of what your arguments are.
- If you do write your introduction **before** you have written the body of your assignment, make sure you go back and check that it introduces the arguments you will present in the body.

Example of an introduction (adapted from student assignments with permission)

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<p><i>Intelligence does not lend itself to one single definition; it varies depending on the culture or society in which it is being defined. It is fundamental for educators to understand the diversity in students' intelligence theories which foster each individual's success. Two leading theories, Gardner's multiple intelligences (MI) and Sternberg's triarchic model, provide educators with valuable insights into teaching and learning practices.</i></p> <p>A discussion follows that evaluates a number of studies that demonstrate the positive impacts these theories have on students, including raised self-esteem and general academic success.</p>	<p><i>General statement about the topic (intelligence).</i></p> <p>Overall position related to the task.</p> <p><u>Scope or limits of the assignment (two specific models).</u></p> <p>Main points covered in the body (indication of structure and organisation of ideas).</p>



Use this template to help you write the introduction for your assignments

Write a general statement about the topic.	
Sum up in one or two statements the overall purpose or your position related to the task.	
Make clear the limits you have set in terms of the aspects/ issues/ factors you consider in the body.	
Outline the structure of your assignment indicating the main points you have included in the body.	

Tip

Edit what you have written to ensure the order of information makes sense and that ideas are linked to each other.