



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;
- 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
- defines important terms, or provides necessary background information where necessary (and may or may not use references to do so).

Tips

- You might find it easier to draft the introduction **after** you have written the body of your assignment, because you should have a clearer idea of what your arguments are.
- If you 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 (McInerney & McInerney 2002). 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. Numerous research projects demonstrate the advantageous impacts these theories have on students, including raised self-esteem and general academic success.</i></p>	<p><i>General statement about the topic (intelligence).</i> Overall position related to the task. <i>Scope or limits of the assignment (two specific models).</i> <i>Main points covered in the body (indication of structure and organisation of ideas).</i></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. Define specific terms if necessary.	
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.

Useful links *(all open in a new window)*

There may be resources that have been created with your lecturers, addressing assignment tasks and topics specific to your courses. Follow the links below to find out:

[Business](#)

[Education, Arts and
Social Sciences](#)

[Health Sciences](#)

[IT, Engineering and the
Environment](#)