

Introduction

Tips based on this link: <http://www2.hmc.edu/~alves/intros.html>

Key Tips of DO:

1. Grab your reader's attention (quote, statistic, story, startling fact, etc.).
2. Create a thesis and incorporate it into your introduction. What is the problem you are addressing?

What is it you will inform your reader about?

3. Explain relevance/ why your reader should be interested.
4. You can include a brief preview as to how you will address your main points.

Key tips of DON'T:

1. Don't make the introduction too long. Keep the introduction short and to the point.
2. Usually you do not include background information or factual information in your background. This rule can be adjusted, however, depending on the kind of paper you are writing.

Additional tips for Writing an Introduction found at this link:

<http://www2.mcdaniel.edu/english/writingcenter/essayformat.htm>

Answer three main questions to address in your intro:

1. What am I discussing in the paper?
2. What methods will I use to talk about it?
3. How am I going to prove my main idea?

Body

Tips based on: <http://www2.mcdaniel.edu/english/writingcenter/essayformat.htm>

1. State your first main point. It is often best to keep this sentence first so your reader can follow along.
2. Discuss the main point. What does your main point mean?
3. Provide evidence that supports what you say (cite sources). *Watch citations!*
4. Analyze how citations support main point.
5. In order to be thorough and all-inclusive, further explain how supported main point reflects back to thesis .

Note: When going from main point to main point, it is a good idea to use transitions such as "In addition to..." or "While..."

Note: As you write your paragraphs, be sure that everything you include relates back to your main point which then relates back to your thesis.

Additional tips:

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/engagement/index.php?category_id=2&sub_category_id=2&article_id=59

Conclusion

Tips based on: <http://www2.mcdaniel.edu/english/writingcenter/essayformat.htm>

1. Summarize your main points.
2. Restate your thesis.
3. Refer back to attention getter (if possible).

Type of Paper	Tip	Purpose of Tip	Example
Compare/Contrast	Compare ideas/concepts/authors/etc. only as you discuss them in your paper. If you mention Author B when discussing Author A but you haven't yet discussed Author B nor their perspective, it might confuse your reader.	-Enhance flow -Ensure reader understanding -Clarifies what you are saying	<i>Option 1:</i> Para.one: Discuss Author A's perspective. Para. 2: Discuss Author B's perspective. Para. 3: Compare/contrast A and B. <i>Option 2:</i> P. 1: Discuss Author A's perspective. P. 2: Analyze Author B's perspective and incorporate Author A comparisons. <i>Example: Unlike Author A who advocates for this, Author B takes a different stand by saying....</i>
Research Papers	Evaluate the credibility of your resources (where you found them, when they were published, are they biased, etc.)	-Support and strengthen your thesis/argument	Using support from somebody's blog found on the open web would weaken your paper whereas using support from one of the many databases through Milner's website would strengthen your argument and give it credibility.
Reflection Paper	Give specific examples to what you discuss. Be sure the examples are thoughtful.	-Gives your reader a better understanding of what you are trying to say. -Shows the reader that you know what you are talking about and can relate to a real-life example. -Gives you credibility.	If saying you have the strength of focus: <i>I am a very focused individual. For example, I can sit on the Quad during the noisiest of afternoons and still focus on my reading and finish it.</i>
Response Papers (Essay Questions, etc.)	Keep your assignment sheet close to you so you can refer back to it, especially when revising your paper.	-Helps you to be sure you answered the questions fully and that you did not go off on any "tangents."	If the question involves economic supply and demand in Illinois, <i>be sure to keep your response focuses on Illinois supply and demand rather than U.S. demand or other economic components within Illinois.</i>
Research Papers	Be sure your support is	-Maintains the flow of the	If you are writing a paper

	relevant to your thesis and main points.	paper in that you are carrying your thesis throughout the paper.	on the increase in corn production, include information such as statistics about the 2012-2013 crop years. Do NOT provide support on the many uses of corn, especially when your thesis revolves around corn <i>production</i> , not the uses of corn.