



Introduction Paragraphs

The introductory paragraph functions as a road map for your argumentative essay because it tells your reader what they can expect in the paragraphs that follow. It should introduce your topic, move from general to specific statements, and end with your thesis statement. Your introduction paragraph should:

1. Create interest
2. Present background information
3. Preview the main points of your essay
4. State your thesis

Let's look at each of these steps individually:

1. **Create interest:** This is your "hook." A hook may be a statement, question, fact, or anecdote. In most cases, it will be in your own words, but it could be a relevant quote.
2. **Background information:** This is where you provide brief background information on anything your reader needs to understand the rest of your essay. This contextualizes your work. Lastly, this is a good place to define any relevant key terms.
3. **Preview the essay:** This is typically where you review the major points or arguments in your paper that support your thesis.
4. **Present the thesis:** The final statement of your introduction is your thesis statement. Your thesis expresses your topic, your position on the topic, and may reference your major points or arguments.

Sample Introduction:

(1 Hook) Indigenous Peoples have inhabited Canada since time immemorial with their own value systems, government, and public policy until contact with Europeans. **(2 Background Information)** Following the evolution of federalism, Indigenous Peoples became the forgotten third faction of Canada who have an absolute right to self-government. **(3 Preview)** This paper seeks to define the mini-municipality model, the adapted federalism model, and the trilateral federalism model as methods of Indigenous self-government. Special emphasis will be placed on the trilateral federalism model. **(4 Thesis)** The Nisga'a Treaty case study proves the success of trilateral federalism as a method of Indigenous self-government in a modern way.