

## Writing introductions

The purpose of an introduction is to tell your reader how you will answer question; it sets the scene for your essay. A good introduction:

- Shows your reader how you are going to answer the question
- Shows that you understand the issues and their implications
- May include a definition of the topic or key terms (only if needed)
- Indicates the structure of your answer and makes clear the main areas that you are going to write about
- shows evidence that you have carried out some research by making a reference to key sources
- only includes totally relevant details
- is concise: 5% of the word count (e.g.100 words of a 2000 word essay)

Introduction structure	
Demonstrate you understand the question. This might link to the keywords in your assignment title.	
Why are your writing about this topic? What are the main issues and their implications?	
Do you need to include a definition of complex terminology? Base this on academic, not dictionary definitions and include a citation.	
Is there a good quality source that you should highlight? Your citations here will indicate some of your key reading.	
Indicate the main areas that you will discuss: Firstly... then...	

Although the introduction is the starting point of your essay, it is easiest to write after you have completed the main body of your assignment. The reason for this is that by then you will have a better overall feel for which sources are important, what your key themes are, and the order in which you will address them. This should save you some time.