

Writing Research Paper

Introductions

- **Purpose of Research Paper Introduction:** The introduction leads the reader from a general research issue or problem to your specific area of research. It puts your research question(s) in context by explaining the significance of the research being conducted. This is usually done by summarizing current understanding (research to date) and background information about the topic. This is followed by a statement of the purpose of your research issue or problem [**thesis statement**]. It [may] also may contain a summary of the structure of the rest of the paper.

Questions Answered in the Research Paper Introduction: Think of the introduction as a mental road map that answers these four questions:

1. What am I studying?
2. Why is this topic important to investigate?
3. What do we already know about this topic or what have other experts discovered about the topic? (establish background knowledge/information; define topic further)
4. End with a coherent statement that previews the main points of your paper [added by Mr. Snyder]— **thesis statement**