



# Introductions and Conclusions

Writing Center  
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“Faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life” (*NIV*, Titus 1.2).




# Developing Introductions & Conclusions

- Strategies for Writing Introductions
- Examples of Strong Introductions
- Practice Revising Introductions
- Strategies for Writing Conclusions
- Examples of Strong Conclusions
- Practice Revising Conclusions



# What to Do in Your Introduction

- Give your thesis statement.
  - Address a popular misconception.
  - Start with an interesting fact.
  - Give a little background to contextualize your topic.
  - Show why your topic is important, relevant, or interesting.
- 



# What NOT to Do in Your Introduction

- Do NOT beat around the bush.
- Do NOT be vague.
- Do NOT write cliché phrases such as “since the beginning of time” and “this is true for all humanity” and “throughout history.”
- Do NOT write a skinny two-sentence paragraph.



# Discuss the Strengths and Weaknesses of This Introduction

William Morris wrote a poem called "Love Is Enough" and someone is said to have reviewed it briefly in the words, "It isn't." Such has been the burden of this book. The natural loves are not self-sufficient. Something else, at first described as "decency and common sense," but later revealed as goodness, and finally as the whole Christian life in one particular relation, must come to the help of the mere feeling if it is to be kept sweet.

Lewis, C. S. *The Four Loves*. New York: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1960: 116.



# Discuss the Following Introduction by Alice Walker

In 1923, when he was twenty-nine years old, Jean Toomer published *Cane*, a book that sang naturally and effortlessly of the beauty, passion, and vulnerability of black, mostly Southern, life. In form it was unique: There were stories interspersed with poems, a novelette constructed like a play, and delicate line drawings that casually accented pages throughout. Some critics called the book a novel, some called it a prose poem, some did not know what to call it; but all agreed that *Cane* was original, and a welcome change from earlier fiction that took a didactic or hortatory position on black and interracial American life.

Walker, Alice. "The Divided Life of Jean Toomer." *In Search of Our Mother's Gardens*. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co., 1967: 60.



## Activity: Revise This Introduction

In this paper I am going to discuss how Creation makes more sense than evolution. If you really look at the evidence in the Bible and science, you see how there has to be a Creator of the universe. I am going to argue that God exists as the Creator of life. Evolution is wrong and only a theory.



# One Possible Revision

Contrary to secular belief, both Biblical and scientific evidence point to the existence of the Judeo-Christian God as creator. Evolution, on the other hand, is only a theory. Scriptural accuracy and post-Darwinian scientific advances support the presence of intelligent design rather than chance origin.



# Writing Conclusions

- Go beyond summarizing.
- Consider the social significance of your topic.
- Consider the future impact of your topic.
- Don't write a skinny two-sentence paragraph.
- Don't open another can of worms.



# Discuss the Following Conclusion

Even more so than intelligence tests, then, tests of creativity have failed to satisfy the expectations they were designed to meet. Except for certain targeted research purposes, creativity tests (and the thinking that underlines them) have made little difference in the broader research and educational communities. They have, however, triggered some constructive reactions among cognitively oriented researchers.

Gardner, Howard. *Creating Minds*. New York: Basic Books, 1993: 20-21.



# Discuss the Following Conclusion

At its best, the sensation of writing is that of any unmerited grace. It is handed to you, but only if you look for it. You search, you break your heart, your back, your brain, and then – and only then – is it handed to you. From the corner of your eye, you see motion. Something is moving through the air and headed your way. It is a parcel bound in ribbons and bows; it has two white wings. It flies directly at you; you can read your name on it. If it were a baseball, you would hit it out of the park. It is that one pitch in a thousand you see in slow motion; its wings beat slowly as a hawk's.

Annie Dillard quoted In Janet Burroway's *Writing Fiction*. New York: Longman, 2003: 15.



## Activity: Revise This Conclusion

So, to summarize, this argument has shown that the world would be a better place if people did not fight and learned to forgive. If people forgave each other and embraced their differences, then there would not be so many of the world's problems that we see today.




# One Possible Revision

Forgiveness has significant implications beyond the family unit, potentially reconciling nations and ending strife on a global scale. Perhaps what we learn as children is the simple truth: If people forgave each other and embraced their differences, fewer of the world's problems would exist today.



# Final Words: Introductions

## Strategies for Writing Introductions:

- Give your thesis statement.
  - Address a popular misconception.
  - Start with an interesting fact.
  - Give a little background to contextualize your topic.
  - Show why your topic is important, relevant, or interesting.
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# Final Words: Conclusions

## Strategies for Writing Conclusions:

- Go beyond summarizing.
- Consider the social significance of your topic.
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# The Writing Center

- For more help with Introductions and Conclusions, contact the Writing Center.
- Where: Heath 214
- What else: Thanks for your interest in our resources!

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