

Parts of an Essay: Introduction

University Writing Center



Objectives



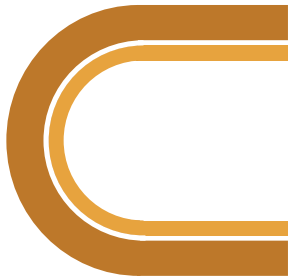
Purpose

- What is an intro?
- Why are they important?



Elements

- Hooks, Background, Thesis, Transitions.



Techniques

- Personalization, Surprise, Relevance, Clarity.



Pitfalls to Avoid

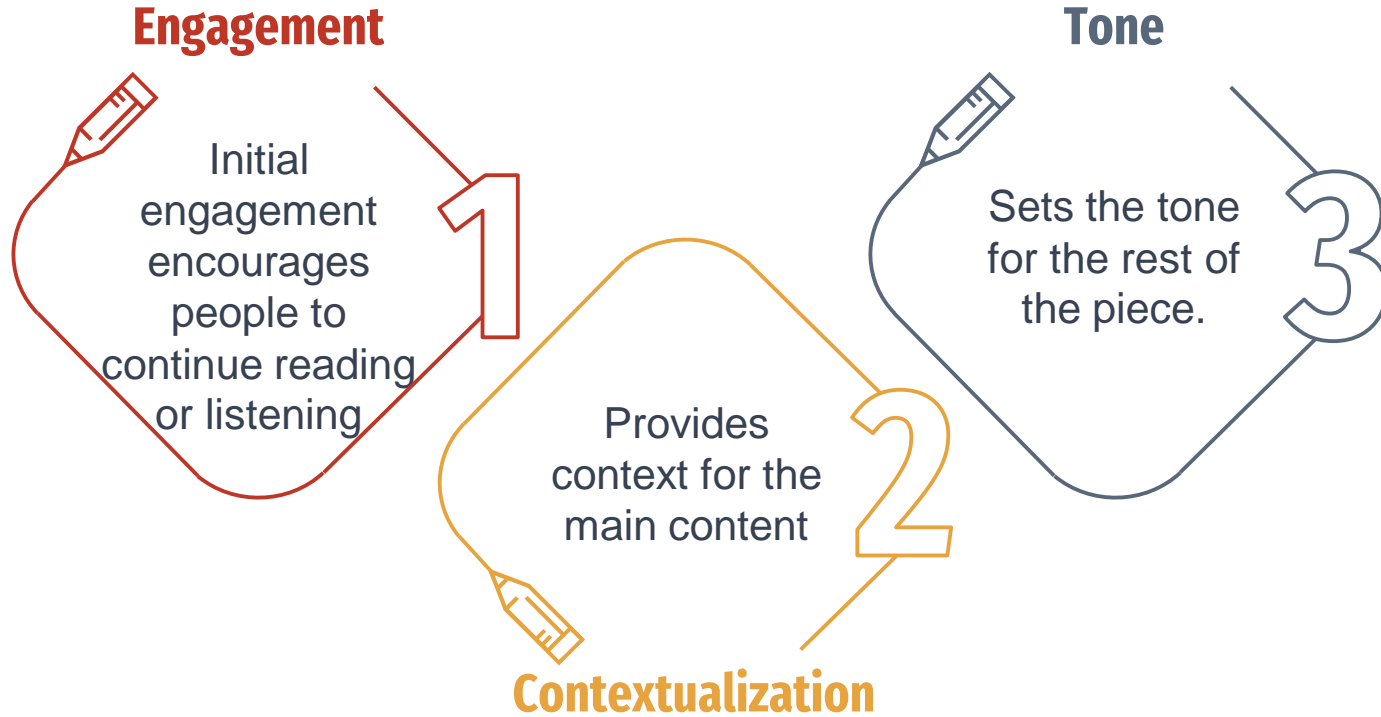
- Things that make your introduction seem bland, messy and unprofessional.

Common Tips

- Things that should be kept in mind when writing your introduction.



Purpose of an Introduction



Elements of an Introduction



The Hook

- Types of Hooks that can be used for the intro include: factual statements, quotations, definition, etc.
- Make sure to keep the audience, tone, and purpose of the the essay when creating the hook



Background

- Helps set the context for your topic
- Gives readers or the audience a foundation for understanding the subject matter



Thesis

- defines the main point or argument of your work
- asserts a specific claim or position on an issue
- tells the reader or audience what to expect from the rest of your work

Types of Techniques

Personalization

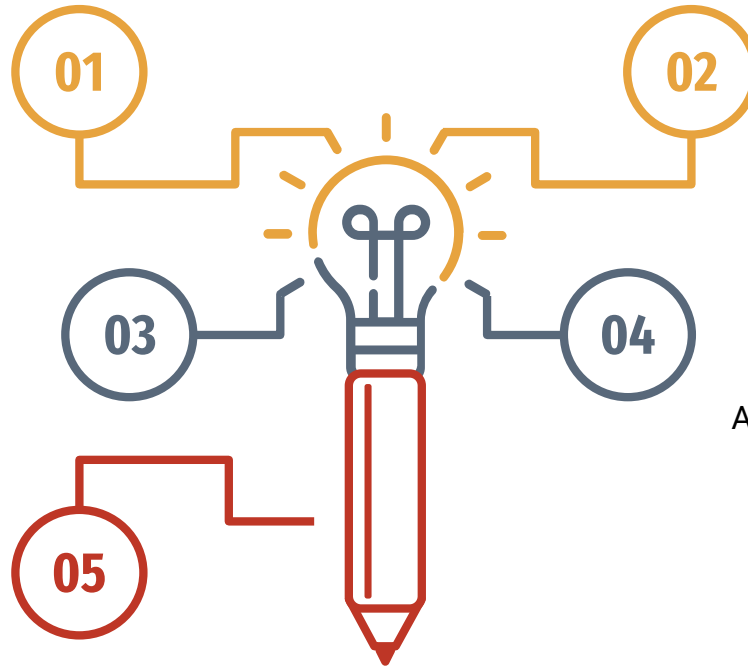
Share personal connection/experience relating to the topic.

Relevance

Ensure that all of the elements have a purpose. Avoid including irrelevant information.

Structure

Provide a basic structure for your writing



Surprise /Intrigue

Unexpected facts/statements/statistics

Clarity/Conciseness

Use clear and straightforward language. Avoid overly complex or convoluted sentences.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid



1

Clichés and Overused Openings

“Once upon a time...”

2

Overly Broad or General Statements

“Throughout history, people have always had dreams and aspirations”

3

Excessive Background Information

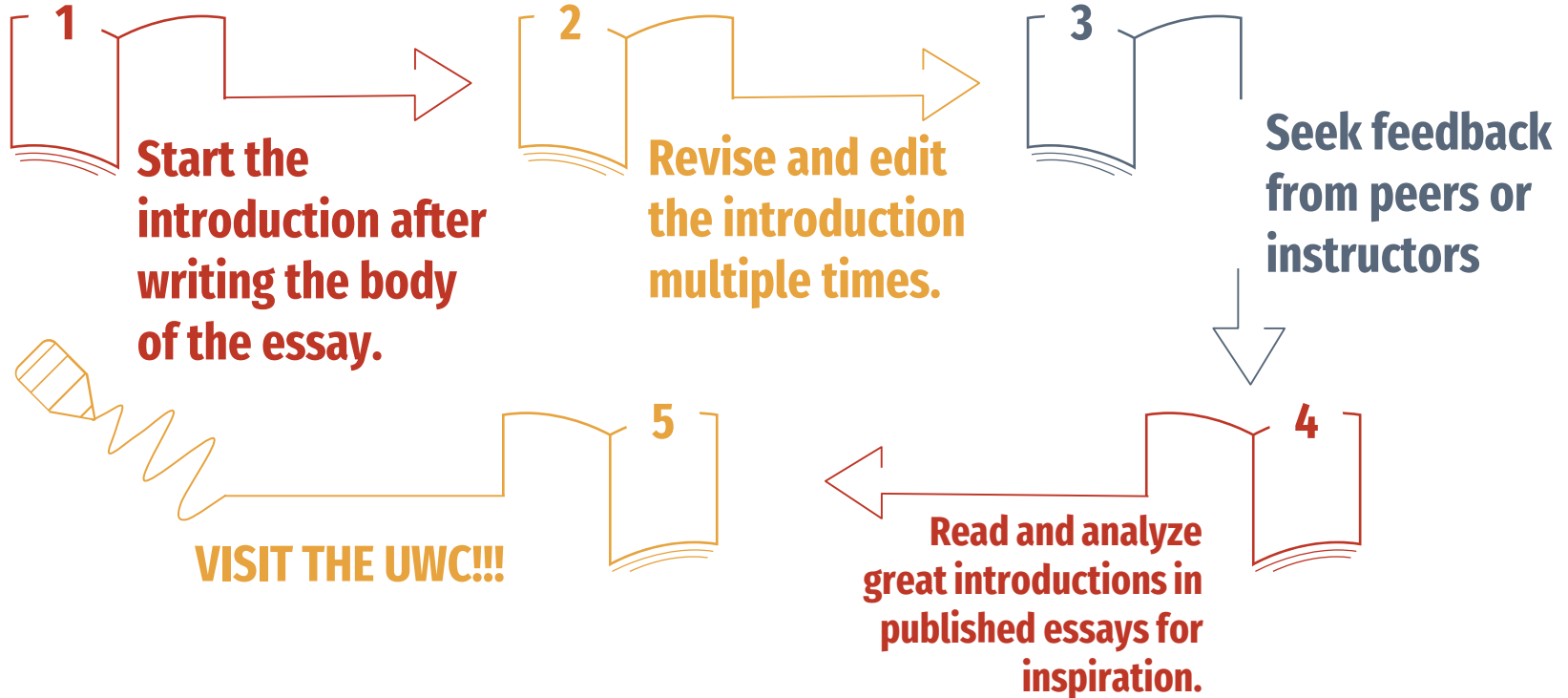
Too much information might make the reader get lost in simple content, as well as overwhelm them

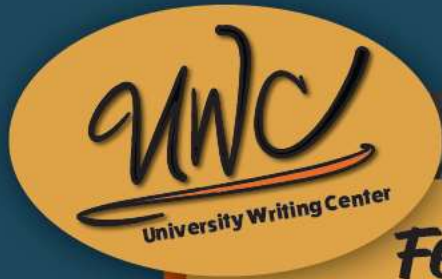
4

Jargon or Technical Language

Only use if it is the appropriate

Practical Tips for Writing an Introduction





*Any Writer.
Any Writing.*

Features and Services:

Brainstorming and Prewriting Assistance

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Friday

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