

Writing a Compelling Introduction

General Requirements You Can Achieve with This Guideline:

- At least 3 sentences (optimally 4-5 sentences, including the thesis)
- An interesting “hook” to introduce the paper
- A thesis as the last sentence of the introduction

Steps to Writing a Good 4-Sentence Introduction:

Although you can write in order (first to last sentence), this method is going backwards

Prompt: Write an opinion paper about abortion.

1. **Compose your thesis first** (refer to thesis composition materials for details).

Although many people support abortion because of a belief in “my body, my choice,” a woman should not have an abortion because it takes an innocent life, results in psychological damage, and is unbiblical.

2. **Write a sentence that leads into the thesis.** Usually, this sentence starts with an “although” or “however,” since it responds to the previous sentence. Tip: write the sentence plainly. Then just add “however/on the other hand/nevertheless,” to the beginning of the sentence.

However, the Bible states that all life comes from God, and only He has the right to give it or take it.

3. **Write a sentence that states the “general” or “common” view.** This sentence could include words like “usually,” “tend(s) to,” “on the surface,” “assume(s),” etc. Tip: Just think of a “gut reaction” to the topic about which you are writing.

People frequently choose abortion because they **tend to** prioritize their personal choices over moral values.

4. **Write a sentence that “hooks” your reader.** This sentence introduces your topic. You could use a shocking statistic or an interesting quote.

According to the online newspaper Freedom Outpost, about “one-third of all American women will have had an abortion by the age of 45.”

5. Once you have your sentences together, read them over and, if needed, **fix any repetitions.**

According to the online newspaper Freedom Outpost, about “one-third of all American women will have had an abortion by the age of 45.” People frequently choose abortion because they tend to prioritize their personal choices over moral values. However, the Bible states that all life comes from God, and only He has the right to give it or take it. Although many people support abortion because of a belief in “my body, my choice,” a woman should not have an abortion because it takes an innocent life, results in psychological damage, and is unbiblical.

Some Additional Tips:

- Write the introduction after you’ve finished writing the rest of your paper—that way, you know what you are setting up for!
- Do not be afraid to tweak your sentences once you have composed your introduction. Sometimes small changes make a big difference.

Created By: Valera Kim (March 2016)