



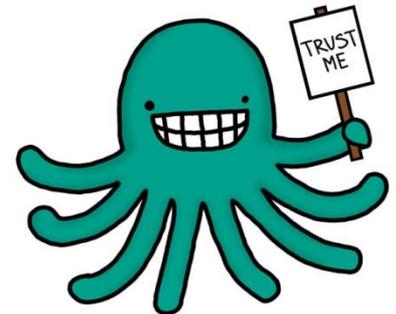
Helloooo... is there
anyone out there?!?

Essay Introductions



But I don't know how to start!!!

- 👉 No-no #1: Beginning with “Hi. My name is...” or “Now I’m going to tell you about...” or “This paper will be about...” etc.
- 👉 The most important thing to do is introduce your *subject*.
- 👉 It’s easy! Simply make a statement about the subject.



Some scintillating examples:

- ☞ For a report on gorillas, your first sentence might be: “Most people think of gorillas as vicious, meat-eating animals.”
- ☞ For a composition on why lunch periods should be longer, it could be: “Lunch should be a time for relaxation, not stress.”
- ☞ You’ve got to be brave! Dive right in to your topic!





What *Not* To Start With:

- 👉 “I’m going to tell you about how gorillas live.”
- 👉 “My paper will be about the behavior of gorillas.”
- 👉 C’mon! Let’s get sophisticated, guys!

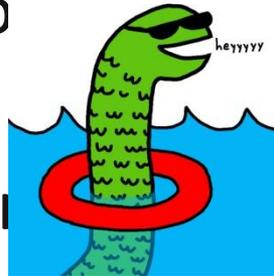


be
classy,
okay?



What You Can Start With:

- ➡ Simply start with your main idea OR
- ➡ Tell a story about an experience you or someone else has had that relates to your topic OR
- ➡ Quote someone who said something interesting or noteworthy about your topic OR
- ➡ Point out a startling statistic or an interesting fact about your topic.





Example: Start with the main idea.

- ➡ Pretend my topic is the invention of the printing press.
- ➡ If I started with the main idea, my first sentence might look like this: “The invention of the printing press in 1455 was a development that changed the world forever.”



Example: Tell a story.

- 👉 “Imagine that no one in your family can read. The only people who have access to books are monks, high-ranking government officials, and royalty. It is very possible that you’ve never even seen a book in your life. Welcome to the world before the printing press was invented.”
- 👉 Do you see how that little bit of a story can make readers want to know more?



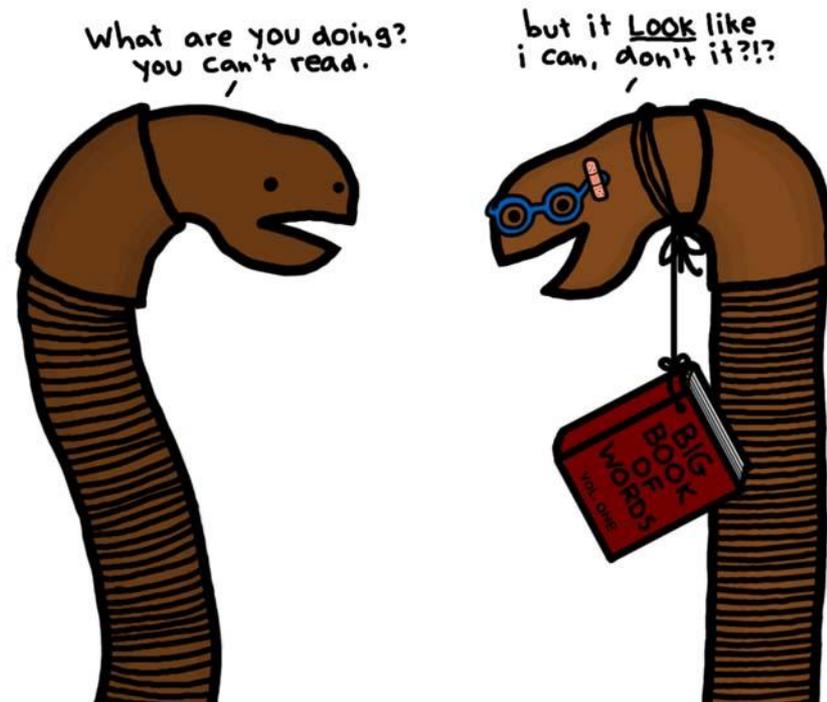
Example: Quote someone.

- ☞ “‘What gunpowder did for war, the printing press did for the mind,’ stated American orator Wendell Phillips, and by all accounts, he’s right.”
- ☞ Make sure your quote is from a well-known person, or someone who knows the topic well.



Example: Use an interesting fact.

👉 “Did you know that the first book produced on a printing press was The Bible?”





Now, the fun part: Practice!

- 👉 Below is the introduction to a composition about something made-up called “zigglebots”. Rewrite the introduction so that it is more effective. Use the tips from the previous page, plus your imagination. You can have “zigglebots” be anything you want.
- 👉 “Hello. My name is Clarice. I am going to write about zigglebots.”



My Version

- 👉 The elusive ziggiebot has been feared by humans since the pre-historic age. Known to swoop down and attach itself to your face in order to feed off your nose hair, ziggiebots are a constant source of worry to anyone walking around outside their home. However, some argue that the ziggiebots are misunderstood. After months of research, new data has come to light, and it seems that the fearsome face-hugging tendencies are simply the ziggiebots' way of showing affection!