



Writing an introduction

Introduction

During your time at University you are likely to need to write numerous assignments (such as reports, essays, presentations or case studies). A key feature of a good assignment is a clear and effective introduction. The following outlines things to consider when writing an introduction.

What is an introduction for?

An introduction is to show your reader what you are doing, why you are doing it and how you are doing it. It should attract readers' attention.

How to write an introduction?

In general, the following **three** parts of information should be included in an introduction:

1. Most general or broad background information. It needs to be brief and clear enough for your reader to understand your area
2. Main topic, purpose, rationale, or your point of view.
3. Outline/structure of your essay or report. This is the last part of your introduction. It should clearly demonstrate how you are going to organise the rest of your essay/report. This is often a list, for example, 'This essay will discuss how students' academic skills can be enhanced from three aspects: A, B and C '

An introduction should be around 10% of the total length of the assignment (unless you are writing a thesis).

You are allowed to include references within your introduction – these are likely to be most applicable to part 1.

Example of a good introduction

- **Purple** = part 1
- **Black** = part 2
- **Orange** = part 3

Over the last ten years there has been a significant growth in the area of Learning Development within universities (Zhang, 2012). Specifically, more university now provide additional opportunities for students to enhance their academic skills through online materials, workshops and/or 1:1 appointment provision (Dobson, 2011). It is however, unclear which of these teaching methods is most beneficial in terms of enhancing the student experience and improving attainment. **This essay will consider the advantages and disadvantages of each method. Based on findings a conclusion will be presented detailing how future growth in this area might occur.**

Further information

The Learning Resources Study Hub provides a range of opportunities (such as workshops and drop-ins) for you to enhance your academic skills. For more information visit:

lrweb.beds.ac.uk/studyhub

