

You only get one chance at a first impression!
Make your introduction a good one!

The three things you must do in your introduction.

1. Introduce your subject, and background information.
2. Get attention of the audience.
3. Introduce thesis for guide of paper.

Some ways you can go are . . .

1. Take a contrarian point of view: The opposite that you would want to prove.
2. Thought provoking details: Bring the attention front and center.
3. Informative Quote: Explain the significance.
4. Engaging story: related to the topic.
5. Paradox or analogy: Make them think things through.

DO NOT POSE A BROAD QUESTION. HISTORIANS ANSWER QUESTIONS!

As you write your introduction try to go from the vague points at the beginning to the most specific points at the end. (Thesis Statement) Try to set the scene for you paper. By the end you should prepare your reader with a general overview of your topic that leads to you very specific thesis statement at the end.

When writing in History or in most academic fields. Be sure to follow these guidelines.

1. No first person. (I, you, me, we)
2. Do not use contractions. (don't, can't, etc.)
3. Use strong verbs. Avoid the passive voice. Try to avoid all forms of "to be" (are, were, was).
4. Avoid colloquialisms (cool, neat, awesome)
5. Be gender inclusive.
6. Use complete sentences.