

Supporting Paragraph #3:
Connection to
Community

Conclusion

vaccines for AIDS and the cloning of animals are also explained in language all of us can understand. The newspaper gives us not only the information but also the understanding we need to make sense of developments in our world.

Most importantly, the newspaper offers us a vivid connection to our community. By reading the paper, we learn of important civic meetings that offer us the opportunity to get involved on the local level to help improve our neighborhoods. Moreover, our local newspaper helps give our town an identity and connects us to our neighbors. We keep abreast of the activities of local clubs and teams, and we learn of births, marriages, and deaths in our town. We read letters to the editor that tell us what our neighbors think of issues big and small, and we also participate in the pride of ownership when we read of local residents who win awards or gain recognition for outstanding accomplishments. After reading the paper over breakfast, we walk out the door feeling more engaged in our community.

Our world is becoming more complex each day, and it is often a struggle to make sense of such rapidly changing times. Luckily, we have an ally in the newspaper that is delivered to us every morning. The daily newspaper deserves our time and attention, for it brings us the information we need to better understand our world and to be engaged citizens. Armed with knowledge of current affairs, the background information to make sense of the affairs, and appreciation for our community, we are better equipped to participate as responsible citizens in a democratic nation.



The Introduction

Because it establishes the reader's attitude toward the topic and toward the writer, the **introduction** is the most important part of the essay. An interesting introduction will make the reader want to read the rest of the essay.

The **introduction** to an essay should

- Get the reader **interested in the topic** (attention-getter).
- Provide **background information** about the topic (factual material).
- State **the thesis** of the essay (main idea).

In the following example, professional writer John E. Obedzinski creates interest by telling about a family he counseled who was not the sort of happy family that he will define in his article. This anecdote raises readers' curiosity about what makes a happy family. (The complete essay is on page 465.) Remember that professional writers often prefer a number of short paragraphs to grab the reader's attention. In an academic essay, the attention-getter is usually located at the beginning of the introductory paragraph.

From "Why Happy Families Are Different"

By John E. Obedzinski, M.D.

1 The couple in my office looked bewildered. Well-educated, they had raised their children according to the most "progressive" thinking. Emphasizing feelings rather than behavior, the parents allowed the kids to express themselves openly and loudly, offered them an equal voice in family decisions and gave

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