

Writing Essays: Introductory Paragraph

Level: High School

A thesis statement is a concise statement of the main point of an essay. It usually appears right at the end of the introductory paragraph. Depending on the type of essay you are writing, though, the thesis statement helps get your point across in different ways.

- *In an **expository essay**, the thesis statement is a simple, factual expression of the theme of your paper.*
- *In a **persuasive essay**, the thesis statement expresses a definite opinion on your topic.*
- *In a **comparative essay**, the thesis statement makes clear what is being compared and why the comparison is important.*
- *In a **narrative essay**, the thesis statement often identifies the theme of the story, but it can also define the moral of the story or even simply begin the events of the story.*

Read the thesis statements below. Circle the letter beside the type of essay that works best with each one.

1. That's when I knew that this was going to be one of the worst days of my life.

- a. expository essay
- b. persuasive essay
- c. comparative essay
- d. narrative essay

2. Making a meal involves three easy steps: buying the ingredients, mixing the ingredients, and cooking the food.

- a. expository essay
- b. persuasive essay
- c. comparative essay
- d. narrative essay

3. Cats and dogs differ in temperament, size, and dietary requirements.

- a. expository essay
- b. persuasive essay
- c. comparative essay
- d. narrative essay

4. American students should go to school year-round because they don't need a lengthy summer break, they will do better in math and science, and their parents will save money on childcare costs.

- a. expository essay
- b. persuasive essay
- c. comparative essay
- d. narrative essay

5. Fruitcake and lemon cake differ in taste, ingredients, and length of preparation.

- a. expository essay
- b. persuasive essay
- c. comparative essay
- d. narrative essay

6. My trip to Atlanta was a true adventure in every sense of the word.

- a. expository essay
- b. persuasive essay
- c. comparative essay
- d. narrative essay

7. Crested geckos can live for many years if they have food, water, and warmth.

- a. expository essay
- b. persuasive essay
- c. comparative essay
- d. narrative essay

8. Geckos are better pets than dogs because they are smaller, need relatively little attention, and aren't expensive to feed.

- a. expository essay
- b. persuasive essay
- c. comparative essay
- d. narrative essay

9. Everyone thought that the family at the end of our street were lazy, until I discovered the real reason why they never mowed their lawn.

- a. expository essay
- b. persuasive essay
- c. comparative essay
- d. narrative essay

Writing Essays: Introductory Paragraph Answer Sheet

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. b
5. c
6. d
7. a
8. b
9. d