

# Introductions to Persuasive Essays

The first paragraph of your persuasive essay has certain jobs:

- Make the reader want to read the paper
- Make your topic clear
- Make your position on the topic clear

The first of these is often the hardest part. But there are various ways you can arouse the reader's interest:

- Ask a question
- Say something funny
- Say something surprising
- Tell a (very) short story



Example:

Have you ever wondered how old those eggs you buy from the store might be? Stores can sell you eggs that are as much as two months old. I for one do not like the thought of eating eggs that have been sitting around for two months. Enter the backyard chicken. Keeping chickens in your backyard is an easy and fun way to have fresh eggs all year.

Here I use two techniques in my first two sentences: I ask a question and give a surprising answer. The third sentence links my opening sentences to my topic. (What does it matter how old those eggs are? I don't want to eat old eggs, so here is what I can do about it.) "Enter the backyard chicken" introduces the topic, and the last sentence tells you my position on the topic. I am pro-backyard chicken.

Your turn! Pick any two of the techniques (question, funny, surprising, story) and write a sentence or two using each technique for your topic. When you write your paper, choose the technique you think works best (or combine them).

Technique 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Technique 2: