



## Introduction

### Introduction

Grab the reader's interest  
Bring in the general topic for the paper  
State the thesis—the specific point of the essay

Why should anyone want to read your paper? That is exactly what you should make clear in the introduction of your paper.

*First*, get the reader interested in the paper by using a grabber, such as a relevant quote, a personal anecdote, an amazing statistic, or a provocative statement.

Example:

**Some believe that if work place safety preserves just one human life, it is worth it, but others disagree.**

*Second*, now that you have the reader's attention, state your general topic.

Example:

**One of the most important aspects on the job is work safety, but is the cost and the effort proportional to the return?**

*Third*, state your thesis or the specific point of your paper. The thesis tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the paper.

Example:

**Safe working environments are actually more profitable to the employer in the long run than unsafe ones.**

Now, observe how the three parts go together to form an introduction.

**If it saves just one human life, it is worth it! One of the most important aspects on the job is work safety, but is the cost and the effort proportional to the return? Safe working environments are actually more profitable to the employer in the long run than unsafe ones.**

## Body

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[Say] what the evidence is  
Give an [example] of the evidence  
Tell [why] the evidence is important

**SEWing** helps you stitch together a successful paper. The three letters mean, "**Say**," give "**Example**," and explain "**Why**." The acronym helps you remember not to make your point and stop there, but to *support your point with evidence and analysis*. That's what professors like.

### Here's how SEWing works:

[Say] The supervisor responsible for training at Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station didn't behave ethically.

[Example] In his memo of July 11, 1978, he ordered his team not to include new information on how to handle a low coolant event. [Why] According to Markel's guidelines for technical writing, deliberately suppressing information is unethical, and in this case the accident had costly economic and serious public relations consequences.

Here's another example to show how SEWing works

[Say] The case of Union Carbide in India illustrates this point about the importance of safety. [Example] In the early morning of December 3, 1984, gas leaked from a faulty tank at the Union Carbide facility, totally disabling 40 people, partially disabling 2,680 persons, and killing 3,800. [Why] The executives of Union Carbide were permanently disgraced, and the company was fined \$470 million by the Indiana government.

Connect your different body paragraphs by using transitional devices to help your reader move smoothly from one example to another:

In the same way, . . .

On the other hand, . . .

In addition, . . .