

Introductions

Some ideas based on Writing with Style by John Trimble

Front Door

- Try that front door. Use active voice and vigorous verbs. Ex: Plagiarism detection services give a false sense of security.
- It's not necessary to use a tabloid-like opening sentence, but feel free to do so if it will attract attention and you think the audience will take your paper seriously.

Using Quotes and Anecdotes

- Quotes and anecdotes are usually effective ways to capture the audience's attention and to introduce the issue at hand.
- Capturing attention is generally more important than immediately introducing the issue in the first sentence. The thesis can be announced later if you plan correctly. But typically it is the last sentence of the intro.

Avoid (excessive) wordiness

- It's best to avoid introductory sentences like these:
- (In this present world in which we live,) plagiarism detection services give a false sense of security.
- (In my mind, I think that) plagiarism detection services give a false sense of security.

Are rhetorical questions effective?

- They can be, so long as the paper goes on to answer the question. I suggest asking only one, though. A paper that asks too many questions concedes too much freedom to the reader, so the writer has lost some control over the direction of the paper.