

Introductions

Time: 60 minutes

Level: **** [B1/B2/C1]

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' ability to write an academic introduction. It starts with 'noticing skills' by looking at a basic introduction structure and highlighting key points in sample / model introductions. It then leads into writing practice.

1. Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss what should be included in an introduction.
- Explain that usually it should have four parts / sections
- Try to elicit the four sections

*Students may not understand 'thesis statement' and this can be explained by suggesting it is their opinion and the key sections / topics to be discussed.

Introduction #1: [give out handout introduction overview] - ask students to read the introduction model and see how the four sections are structured. Highlight how the thesis links to the question, provides the key sections of the essay and provides a stance.

Introduction #2: [give out handout of 3 introductions] - tell students to read the first introduction and highlight the four sections (use different highlighter colours). Feedback as a class and then ask the students to look at the thesis statement and identify the 3 parts (question words, topics, stance). Feedback as a class to check. Then continue with the next two as a class or individually (depends on level).

Introduction #3: [Writing an introduction] students choose a title and write an academic introduction applying the skills they have just acquired.

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Introduction #1

Introductions usually follow this basic structure. It is really important to tell the reader your stance (thesis statement) and structure of the essay.

AE Academic English UK

Introduction

1	General sentence – introduce the general topic / background and reason for the argument / controversy.
2	Specific – what is the main topic / information based on this topic / definition (if applicable)
3	Thesis – should include the question and the key topics of your argument. It must include your stance / opinion (answer the question (yes or no / to what extent you agree))
4	Outline – what is the general structure & suggestion

↩
Inter-changeable or combined

This is an example introduction

AE Academic English UK

Fair Trade negatively impacts producers and workers in developing countries. To what extent do you agree?

International trade has been predominately controlled by developed countries for centuries and developing countries have struggled to access this market. Fair Trade is a worldwide initiative aimed at improving the livelihood of producers and empowering workers in developing countries by generating better terms and sufficient wages (Fair Trade International, 2017). Overall, Fair Trade develops increased economic stability, higher salaries compared to conventional producers and educates community diversification. Thus, to a large extent the claim that Fair Trade negatively impacts producers and workers in developing countries is invalid. This essay will focus on the main arguments connected to stability, salaries and diversification and conclude with suggestions on how Fair Trade could be improved.

→ **First sentence**
A general statement that does not include the main focus but introduces the issue / controversy for the argument

→ **Definition**
A paraphrased definition (don't copy/reference source)

→ **Thesis** –include question words and show your sections / key arguments of the essay (stability, salaries, diversification)

→ **Outline** – MUST explain what the essay structure will do and the outcome / conclusion

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Introduction #2 - Worksheet

1	General sentence – introduce the general topic / background / reason for argument
2	Specific – what is the main topic / definition
3	Thesis – must include the question and the key topics of your argument. You must answer the question (yes or no)
4	Outline – what is the general structure & suggestion

Highlight the four key areas in these introductions: look at the thesis and highlight the key question words, topic areas and stance.

Task 1

Question: *Should countries implement alternative energy to reduce CO2?*

Global awareness of environmental issues and natural sources shortage

_____ . Most countries are striving to reduce their carbon footprint through _____ sources that can be used to replace existing traditional fossil fuel systems. It is important to work towards a cleaner environment and reduce _____ ; meeting demand, adapting infrastructure and societal awareness. This essay will focus on how _____ and the detrimental aspects of the adaption.

Thesis - write the key parts of the thesis here:

Question words

Topics

Stance

Task 2

Question: *Why have the crime rates in the UK fallen so rapidly?*

One of the most significant current discussions at the moment [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] According to the Office of National Statistics (ONS)
(2015), [REDACTED] significant declines in
robbery, violence and theft. There are many reasons for the decline in crime rates such as
[REDACTED] systems. However,
the most important rationale is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and minimum wage policy. This essay will investigate the
two main claims and [REDACTED] is the main driver for a reduction of crime.

Thesis

Question words	
Topics	
Stance	

Task 3

Question: *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is not an important consideration for business in 2018. To what extent do you agree.*

Corporations and business companies need to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in order to survive in the future. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is
a significant focus for companies, which is the commitment to behave [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] while improving the quality life of the community. It has been
argued that CSR is not an important consideration for 2018, which is possibly
[REDACTED]. However, it is vitally important to implement
CSR [REDACTED] and profitability. This essay will
discuss both areas of the argument and conclude [REDACTED] and should
be a key focus for business.

Thesis

Question words	
Topics	
Stance	

Introduction #3

Write an introduction using the four-part structure and a developed thesis statement.

Questions: (chose one)

1. Public gun ownership should be banned. To what extent do you agree.
2. A college degree career. To what extent do you agree.
3. Gender discrimination is . To what extent do you agree.
4. Better pay scale is the compared to other rewards. To what extent do you agree.
5. Plastic pollution is for governments to control. To what extent do you agree.

Answers:

Task 1 Question: *Should countries implement alternative energy to reduce CO2?*

Global awareness of environmental issues and natural sources [redacted]
[redacted] Most countries are striving to reduce their [redacted]
[redacted] sources that can be used to replace existing traditional fossil fuel
systems (**specific**). It is important to work towards a cleaner environment and [redacted]
[redacted]; **meeting demand, adapting infrastructure and societal
awareness (thesis)**. This essay will focus on [redacted] and
the **detrimental aspects** of the adaption (**outline**).

Question words	Reduce CO2 / [redacted] / implementation
Topics	Meeting demand / [redacted] / societal awareness
Stance	Is [redacted] / detrimental aspects

NOT ALL ANSWERS SHOWN..