

Introduction to your Research Paper

1

Indent the first sentence of the introduction one "tab," which should be a half an inch from the left margin. Alternatively, you can press the "Space" bar five times.

2

Understand the overall purpose of an introduction. The introduction will introduce the general topic (thesis statement) to the reader and hook her so she will want to continue reading.

3

Decide which pieces of information need to be clarified in the introduction. It may be necessary to provide a small amount of historical background, define a concept that's central to your essay or introduce factual information that you will be expanding on.

4

Creatively introduce the topic. It's possible to present even boring facts in an interesting way. Common ways to write an introduction include asking the reader questions that will get them thinking; providing an interesting phrase or quote that relates to the paper; or telling a story or recounting an event.

5

Limit the introduction to one paragraph. While long works can have multi-paragraph introductions, shorter research essays typically have a one-paragraph introduction. If necessary, you can choose to expand the intro to two paragraphs. Just keep the intro as short and concise as possible.

6

Follow basic MLA page format guidelines.

The research paper should be in 12-point Times New Roman type, double-spaced, on white paper. There should only be one space after periods and other punctuation marks and margins should be one inch on each side.

Step 1

- General point and central issue of your paper
- 2-3 sentences introducing your general topic (***not*** your specific research question)

Step 2

- Give an overview of the important factors involved in your research (what information and sources will be needed to further research this topic)

Step 3

- Share your specific research question within the broad topic.
- For example, if your broad topic is “Migration in Russia” you should now introduce your focused question of “In this paper I will be specifically focusing on how the migration from Russia in the 1950’s effected Kazakhstan”

Step 4

- Tell the reader briefly how you plan to research your specific question and the general order/plan of your paper.
- For example: “First I will examine the historical events that caused the migration from Russia in the 1950’s as it is important to understand the background information. Then, I will examine specifically who left Russia and came to Kazakhstan and which locations they came to. Finally, I will analyze the cultural impact this had on Kazakhstan which can still be seen today.”

Step 5

- Make a logical link to the next paragraph/part of your paper

Remember:

- Your introduction can be 1 paragraph OR it can be more than 1 paragraph. This is not a short essay so it is fine for your introduction to be more than 1 paragraph.
- In general, for a research paper of 4-6 pages, your introduction should probably be $\frac{1}{2}$ page to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page (double spaced).