Great! Now we can focus on winning, rather than on not losing.

fear of failure

not losing

confidence

winning

Devices for developing it? The writer listed and discussed several examples to support his main idea.

Ray Meyer led the DePaul University basketball team to 42 winning seasons. (Para.1)

Basketball, team, winning, season, game, straight victories, at home, losing, and goal

Writing an introductory paragraph is like greeting someone. The paragraph should be short and to the point like saying, "Hello."

present the thesis statement that announces the focus of your essay.

How to write an introductory paragraph

The main purpose of the introductory paragraph are to:

The common methods of writing an introductory paragraph are:

Using an incident or a brief story

Asking one or more questions

Look at the first paragraph in our text and think about how it presents the thesis statement and catches your attention.

Ray Meyer led the DePaul University basketball team to 42 winning seasons. When his team lost its first game after 29 straight victories at home, his response was: "Great! Now we can focus on winning, rather than on not losing."

Meyer showed a spirit of working toward positive goals, pouring one's energy into the task, and not looking behind and making excuses for past events

thesis statement

An anecdote can hook readers into wanting to read more.

an example of a personal story from a divorced family

thesis statement on the effects of divorce on children

John's parents divorced when he was in elementary school. After the divorce, his mother had to go to work to support him and his three sisters. Without the supervision of his mother and due to the lack of a father for a role model, John began skipping school and was eventually arrested for being a drug dealer and sent to prison. In many prisons today, over half of the prisoners come from divorced families.

Divorce can be the catalyst that unleashes emotional problems in children and can affect children psychologically and mentally.

a personal story in the third person

Asking one or more questions

Here is an example of how you can use questions to catch readers' attention and present the thesis statement.

What is love? How do we know that we are really in love? When we meet that special person, how can we tell that our feelings are genuine and not merely infatuation?

Love, as we know, is difficult to define and it involves mutual respect, and the desire to give

questions about the subject rather than to take

thesis statement

Final reminders

Be concise and related to the main idea.

A good begun is half done.