

# Introductions



**GRACE**  
ACE & WRITING CENTER

**Introductions: “Your introduction and conclusion act as bridges that transport your readers from their own lives into the “place” of your analysis” (University of North Carolina).**



**BEGIN GENERALLY**  
**ADD SPECIFICS**  
**THESIS STATEMENT**

Begin generally, then move into more specific information, finishing your introduction with your thesis statement.

## **DO:**

- Use a catchy quote, real-life experience or anecdote to draw in your reader’s attention.
- Make sure your opening anecdote or quote relates directly to your topic
- Tie it in smoothly with your topic, then narrow it down to your thesis statement.
- Bulleted list

## **DON’T:**

- Give away all your points in your introduction
- Start with your thesis statement
- Make broad sweeping generalizations

## **SAMPLE INTRODUCTION:**

“Gotta eat to live; gotta steal to eat, tell you all about it when I got the time!” (Aladdin, 1992). This twentieth century Disney quote is not something one would normally associate with sixteenth century literature. However, this idea perfectly represents the Spanish pícaro: a character in the early novels of Spanish literature who is the street urchin, the disenchanting but charismatic poor adventurer who spends his time equally between getting himself into trouble and charming his way out of it again. *Lazarillo de Tormes*, published anonymously in 1554, is a showcase of this literature style and draws many surprising parallels to Disney’s Aladdin character.

This introduction begins with a pop-culture quote that most people will be familiar with to draw the reader into a topic they may know nothing about. It then explains how the quote relates to the topic at hand, introducing the topic along the way, then explains that the paper will be a critical analysis of the similarities between the novel and the movie.

Works consulted: **The Writing Center at the University of North Carolina**