

Writing Argument Introductions

Your introduction paragraph should contain three parts:
a hook, the topic, and your opinion.

HOOK

Just like in all other types of writing, your hook should grab the readers' attention and make them want to read on. Here are some examples of types of hooks you could use in an essay arguing that pizza is healthy.

First a Fact: Use facts to intrigue your reader.

Did you know pizza took the United States by storm before it became popular in Italy?

Two Sides: Use opinion to introduce the conflict.

Many people consider pizza just another type of junk food, but with the right ingredients, others think it can be quite healthy.

Action Drop: Drop your reader into the action with an anecdote.

My party guests gasped in horror as the pizza slipped out of the box and onto the floor.

Picture This: Use adjectives to create a vivid picture in the reader's mind.

Mmmm...do you smell that? Fresh from the oven, the scents of hot bread, spicy pepperoni, and melted cheese make my mouth water.

TOPIC

Following your hook, you will need to introduce the topic of the essay. This usually takes 2 to 3 sentences. Briefly explain the two-sided issue you will be writing about. This is the only part of your essay where you will not be neutral in your presentation of the information. Avoid writing, "My topic is..." or "Here are some reasons...", just clearly state the issue.

For example,

Pizza, while loved by almost everyone, has a bad reputation for being an unhealthy meal option. Yet, it is really that bad? People around the globe are beginning to see pizza differently.

THESIS

As with other essays, your thesis statement should be the last sentence in your introduction. In an argument essay, your thesis is basically your opinion on the topic. Be clear and straightforward, do not be wishy-washy.

For example,

When the right ingredients and cooking methods are used, pizza is actually quite healthy.

So, putting all the pieces together, a sample introduction paragraph in, an essay arguing pizza is healthy, might look something like this:

Mmmm...do you smell that? Fresh from the oven, the scents of hot bread, spicy pepperoni, and melted cheese make my mouth water. Pizza! While loved by almost everyone, this pie of spicy deliciousness has a bad reputation for being an unhealthy meal option. Yet, it is really that bad? People around the globe are beginning to see pizza differently. The truth is, when the right ingredients and cooking methods are used, pizza is actually quite healthy.