GOALS OF THE INTRODUCTION

Engage your reader’s interest, introduce your topic, and articulate your argument.

1) To garner interest in your essay
   - Begin your essay with a “hook” to catch your reader’s attention (e.g., an intriguing anecdote, a thought-provoking question, a quotation, etc.).

2) To introduce your essay topic and establish general context
   - Consider your audience. What background information does your reader need?

3) To introduce your essay question (what question prompted your research and argument?)
   - Build from the background context into your research question; what led you to consider and pursue this question?

4) To introduce the answer that you are proposing to your research question (i.e., your thesis)
   - Be specific! Take more than one sentence if needed.

5) To offer a roadmap of your essay’s structure (i.e., the sub-points of your thesis)
   - Break down your argument into main points (to be discussed in your essay’s body paragraphs), but do not summarize them; be brief here, and only offer an overview.

Note: It is typically a good strategy to revisit your introduction after you’ve written your essay, as your argument and main points may shift during the writing process.