WRITING AN EFFECTIVE INTRODUCTION

Functions of an Effective Introduction: prepares the reader for the essay’s topic, arouses interest so the reader will want to read on, and includes a clear, concise thesis statement.

STRATEGIES FOR INTERESTING YOUR READER:

- Provide general background information about your topic
- Relate a brief, interesting anecdote that applies to your topic
- Give pertinent, perhaps surprising statistics about your topic
- Ask a series of provocative questions to lead into your topic
- Use a quotation that relates closely to your topic
- Draw an analogy to clarify or illustrate your topic
- Define a key term you use throughout your essay
- Begin with an arresting statement

STRATEGIES TO AVOID

- Avoid obvious statements about the essay’s topic or purpose: Do not say, “I am going to discuss how women are exposed as sexual objects in today’s society.”
- Avoid apologizing, as in “I am not sure I’m right, but this is my opinion.”
- Avoid overworked expressions and clichés, such as “Haste really does make waste, as I recently discovered.”