WHAT’S YOUR STYLE?
Define your purpose. Depending on the style of the paper the introduction will need to reflect the proper tone. Is your paper:

- Narrative
- Expository
- Persuasive
- Descriptive
- Creative

PICK A TOPIC
Picking a topic is not as hard as it might seem. Here are a few brainstorming tips that can help you to narrow your topic.

- **Free write** – Sit down and just start writing. Forget about grammar, and formatting. Just write about whatever comes to mind. How long you spend on this technique is up to you, but soon you will notice all sort of potential ideas.

- **Listing** – Make a list of many different topics that come to mind. Choose the one that interests you most.

- **Clustering/Mapping/Webbing** – Start with a keyword(s) then branch out with other ideas that compare/contrast, support or disagree with the main idea(s). Take it as far as you can.

- **Ask journalist questions** – When you come up with an idea, ask yourself who, what, when, where, why, and how.

TIP: The development of your introduction can make or break your paper. However, you can make the process feel smoother by choosing a topic that you’re familiar with or excites you to learn more about.

PARTS OF AN INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH
There are three main parts that have to be included to establish a well written introduction.

- Introduce the topic (Grab the audience’s attention)
- Why is this topic important
- How will the topic develop throughout the paper (Thesis statement)
INTRODUCTION PART I (GET THE ATTENTION OF YOUR AUDIENCE)

- A bold statement: George Washington was the greatest American president.
- Use a rhetorical question: Will America spiral into the depth of Hell because of the 2010 health reform?
- Define the problem: The problem with women is men, because ...
- A personal experience: Last year I went on a trip to Washington D.C. While there I took a tour of the White House. It was beautiful. ...
- An interesting quote: “The trouble with Socialism is that eventually you run out of others people’s money.” – Margaret Thatcher
- Start with a statistic: In 2009 nearly 1 in 5 children were considered obese.

INTRODUCTION PART II (IMPORTANCE OF TOPIC)

Example - How important is attachment? (This is the attention getter.) It is said that without a secure attachment, human development can be severely impaired, and in extreme cases death can occur (Huffman, 2009). (This sentence tells how important your topic is to human development.)

INTRODUCTION PART III (THESIS)

The purpose of the thesis statement is to inform the audience, in one sentence, how the chosen topic will develop throughout the entire paper. (If you find that after you start writing the paper, you have added ideas that were not stated in your thesis you will have to revise your thesis to mirror your paper.)

Example - To build a trustworthy professional relationship with your clients it is necessary to know the paralegal “Code of Ethics”, Standards of Practice, and knowing how to be of professional, knowledgeable, and discreet.

A COMPLETED INTRODUCTION (EXAMPLE)

How important is attachment? It is said that without a secure attachment, human development can be severely impaired, and in extreme cases death can occur (Huffman, 2009). Different aspects of attachment have been studied by many researchers, like John Bowlby, and Mary Ainsworth, and through their research and an experiment of my own I will show how important attachment is to human development.

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