

Basic Timed Writing Introductions

While there are many ways to introduce an essay, the “funnel” method generally works well in timed essays. These introductions are straightforward with 3- 4 sentences. The first sentence is a broad general sentence. The second is more specific. The third is the thesis. This works for both compare/contrast and cause/ effect essays.

Compare/Contrast

General Sentence	There are many kinds of pets in America.
Narrower Sentence	The characteristics of both dogs and cats make them popular pets.
Thesis	Although dogs and cats have some basic similarities, their physical needs and personalities cause them to differ a great deal as house pets.

Cause/ Effect

General Sentence	There are many kinds of pets in America.
Narrower Sentence	The characteristics of both dogs and cats make them popular pets.
Thesis	The current popularity of pets could be caused by the economic prosperity, busy lifestyle, and security needs of the American population.