

Introductory Paragraph

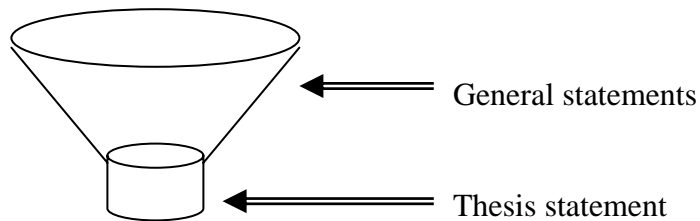
(from Oshima, Alice and Ann Hogue. 1999 *Writing Academic English*, Third Edition. Longman, White Plains, NY)

The introductory paragraph must introduce the topic of the essay and present its main idea.

The introductory paragraph has two parts:

- **general statements** attracting the reader's attention to the topic;
- **a thesis statement** stating the specific topic (main idea) of the essay.

An introductory paragraph is like a funnel:



General statements

- introduce the topic of the essay
- give background information on the topic

Suggestions for writing the general statements:

- do not start too generally;
- do not begin with ideas that are too far from the ideas of your thesis statement;
- use one key word or phrase (or a synonymous phrase) from your thesis statement.