Introductions

Your introduction is like a road map for your essay – it states the paper’s final destination and how it will get there. Each discipline or assignment may have different expectations for the introduction of a paper. Here is one example:

Research Question: Why are no bicycles used in zombie apocalypse films?

INTRO→ Zombie films typically portray characters as travelling by foot or car, but not bicycle. In the post apocalypse, bicycles would be an ideal mode of transport. By ignoring it, such films help to marginalise the bicycle as a viable alternative to transport requiring oil-based fuels. THESIS STATEMENT→ This paper argues that the absence of bicycles in such films reflects the importance of oil in contemporary society. MAPPING SENTENCES→ This paper first introduces the role of transport in several source films: The Road, 28 Days Later, Shaun of the Dead, and Zombie Land. It then argues that there is no clear reason in the context of the films why the characters would not use bicycles. Finally, the lack of bicycles in zombie films will be shown as reflective of a marginal status for this form of transport in ways that demonstrate the power of oil business over pop culture.

What to include

A small amount of background information: Include a few sentences to orient the reader. Also, make sure that this background directly relates to your argument. Example:

Zombie films typically portray characters as travelling by foot or car, but not bicycle.

The thesis statement (see our ‘Refining the Thesis’ guide): This states in in one sentence what you are arguing for. For example:

This paper argues that the absence of bicycles [in zombie films] reflects the importance of oil in contemporary society.

The steps of your essay in mapping sentences: By writing out these steps in a clear way, you are demonstrating an organised set of points that are easily navigable by your reader. In the writing process, it will be important to organise thoughts and ideas into these topics in order to bring structure to the piece. For example, you might write:

This paper first introduces... It then argues… Finally, the lack of bicycles in zombie films will be shown…