Introduction

- An Introduction typically begins broadly and gradually grows more specific. The first paragraph introduces the reader to the overall problem or topic area. The first paragraph does not contain a statement of purpose. The last paragraph should be specifically related to your study, and usually involves a statement of the researcher(s)' prediction(s).

- To learn how to write good introduction sections, read Introductions within articles.
- See p. 314-315 of Cozby & Bates for a nice summary of the “sections” of an Introduction:
  1. General Topic / Problem of Study (including its relevance and importance)
  2. Literature Review
  3. Rationale & Purpose (and Predictions, when applicable)

- Refer to the APA Manual (p. 27-28) for more info about the content of your Introduction.

- At the beginning of the Introduction, the title of your paper (NOT the word “Introduction”) should be centered at the top of the page.
- Introduction must be at least 2.5 pages (double-spaced, 1-inch margins).
- You must cite at least four sources (at least three peer-reviewed articles or chapters).
- You may use a maximum of one direct quote (see APA Manual, p. 170-174).
- You may use a maximum of one secondary source (see APA Manual, p. 178).
- Submit a full copy of each source you use with your Introduction & final paper.
- See APA Manual (p. 174-179) to format your citations.
  Some general examples appear below.

Example 1
Eastman and Mason (1975) found that surrogate mobility...

Example 2
Prior research (e.g., Eastman & Mason, 1975) showed that surrogate mobility...

Example 3
  Chimpanzees in the Harlow, Harlow, and Suomi (1971) study preferred...Harlow et al. also found that the chimpanzees clung to the cloth surrogate even when...
  Overall, then, primates spend more time with a surrogate that provides comfort than a surrogate that provides food (Harlow et al., 1971).

Example 4 (Short Direct Quote)
According to Eastman and Mason (1975), “monkeys raised with moving artificial mothers spend more time looking at other monkeys and are more sensitive to stimulus differences than animals raised with stationary artificial mothers” (p. 63).

Example 5 (Secondary Source)
Mitchell (as cited in Eastman & Mason, 1975) showed that young monkeys’ looking behavior is positively related to curiosity and negatively related to fear.
and the page number in the header area. This means that you need to turn off the first header and start a new header on the abstract page. In Microsoft Word, you have to insert a section break at the bottom of the title page and specify that the new section starting on page 2 will have a different header. An Internet search for “page header changes” should lead you to information on doing this with your word processing software. When you have completed the abstract page, insert a page break to take you to the third page of your paper.

Body of the Paper

Begin the third page by typing the complete title of your paper, centered on the first line. Do not include your name or affiliation (this allows a masked review in which the reader cannot identify the author). You are now ready to type the body of your paper. For most research reports, the body of the paper will have four sections: Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion. These are organized through the use of headings.

Introduction  The Introduction section begins after the title at the top of the page. It is not labeled “Introduction”—instead, you (and your readers) understand that the first part of the body of the paper is the Introduction. The introduction has three components, although formal subsections introduced by headings are rarely used. The components are (1) the problem under study, (2) the literature review, and (3) the rationale and hypotheses of the study. After reading the Introduction, the reader should know why you decided to do the research and how you decided to go about doing it. In general, the Introduction progresses from broad theories and research findings to specific details and expectations of the current research.

The Introduction should begin with an opening statement of the problem under study. In one or two paragraphs, give the reader an appreciation of the broad context and significance of the topic being studied (Bem, 1981; Kazdin, 1995). Stating what problem is being investigated is worthwhile; it helps readers, even those who are unfamiliar with the topic, to understand and appreciate why the topic was studied in the first place.

Following the opening statement, the Introduction provides a description of past research and theory. This is called the literature review. An exhaustive review of past theory and research is not necessary. (If there are major literature reviews of the topic, you would of course refer the reader to the reviews.) Rather, you want to describe only the research and theoretical issues that are clearly related to your study. State explicitly how this previous work is logically connected to your research problem. This tells the reader why your research was conducted and shows the connection to prior research.

The final part of the Introduction tells the reader the rationale of the current study. Here you state what variables you are studying and what results you expect. The links between the research hypotheses, prior research, and the current research design are shown by explaining why the hypotheses are being examined by the study.