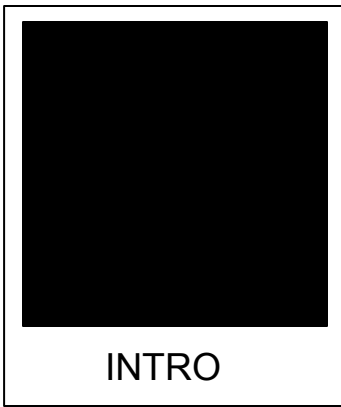


PAPER WRITING GUIDELINES



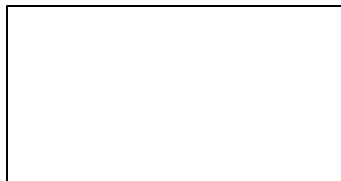
This is your introduction. It should serve as a snapshot of the rest of your paper.

This snapshot should include:

- 1) The context of your paper. What is the relevant literature? Where in the literature do you situate yourself?
- 2) The aim of your paper. Are you offering additional resources to support someone else's argument? Are you defending an argument against a potential objection? Are you revising a thesis in light of an objection?
- 3) Your thesis. This will usually take the form of, "I will argue that x...". It is NOT simply a restatement of someone else's thesis with which you agree.



These are your body paragraphs. In these paragraphs, you will flesh out what you introduced in your introduction paragraph.



As a general rule, you should spend only a few paragraphs on the context in the body of your paper, if it's a short paper. This will give your reader an understanding of the relevance and motivation for your paper.



The bulk of your paper should be spent on your own argument. You should present a **robust defense of the thesis** that you presented in your introduction. One strategy for robustly defending your thesis is to:

1. Present your initial set of reasons in support of your thesis
2. Consider potential objections to your initial argument
3. Respond to those objections



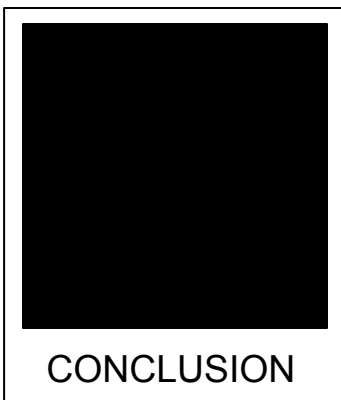
Whatever format you adopt in the body of your paper, you must be **EXPLICIT AND THOROUGH** with your reasoning. Ask yourself:

- How might my line of reasoning be misinterpreted?
- Are there any reasons that I am implicitly relying on in order to defend my thesis that I need to make explicit?
- Is the structure of my paper obvious?
- Are there any useful examples I can give to make my case clearer to my reader?



This is your conclusion. Like your introduction, your conclusion should serve as a snapshot of your paper. Most often, your conclusion is a restatement of your introduction in other words.

You should NOT be presenting new reasons in your conclusion.



Sometimes conclusions can serve as an opportunity to restate your thesis with more nuance than you included in your introduction in light of the reasoning you provided in your body paragraphs.