

Your Introduction—the Blueprint of Your Paper

Read the draft of a student's Introduction below, then write a rough draft of your own Introduction:

Is Thrash Metal Music Artistic?

Whenever someone asks me what my favorite type of music is, and I say, “Thrash Metal,” the person usually squints in discomfort and I receive an awkward stare. Most people who know I listen to Thrash Metal bands [Testament, Slayer, Kreator] think I'm incapable of appreciating good music. Thrash Metal music is viewed as requiring no musical skill, lacking in sensibility, complexity and musicianship [include rock critic quotes about “pimpley, putrid, impossibly pretentious” and “musical joke”]. Detractors also say the lyrics are too graphic, and even believe that listening to Heavy Metal may result in antisocial behavior [“dominion of dim-witted devil-worshippers”]. The truth is, most of this criticism is based on ignorance or superficial exposure. In actuality Thrash Metal is a style of music that incorporates compositionally aesthetic elements and contains lyrics that have creative, insightful and relevant messages about society. Thus, Thrash Metal music, taken as a whole, is an art form that deserves appreciation.

Reminders:

- As you prepare to write your own draft, remember that your first objective is to present the issue driving your paper. Think in terms of engaging your reader's interest—in other words, make the issue as real, compelling and important as you possibly can.
- End your Introduction with a working thesis—either a thesis question or a provisional thesis that you will adjust to fit your research later on.

If you present a thesis question in your draft, keep in mind that it needs to be converted to a thesis statement—ideally an argument—in your final draft of the paper.

Your final thesis statement is typically the *answer* to the question that you posed in your first draft.