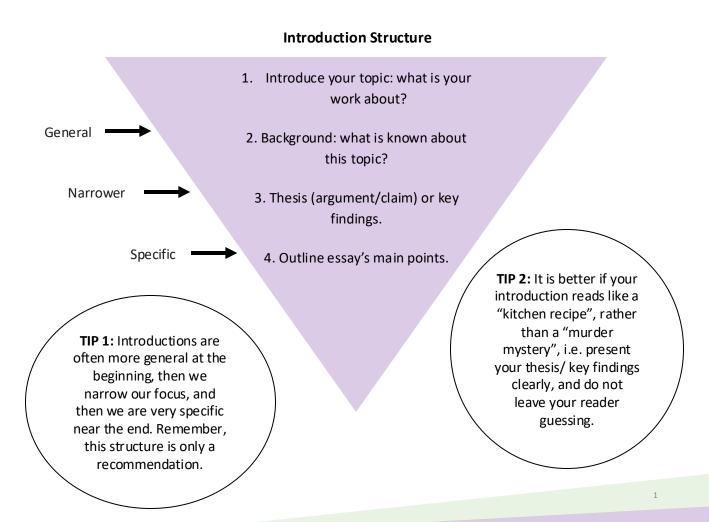
## What is an Introduction?

The first paragraph of your academic work. It creates the first impression of the work. This first impression may relate to the content, the topic(s), background information relating to the topic(s), the central argument(s), the theoretical framework(s), and/or the writing style.

"In theatrical productions, there is a process called *setting the scene*, which is the act of describing a situation so that the audience understands what is happening. Setting the scene lays the groundwork for what to expect during the remaining acts in the production. Similarly, a well-written introduction in a [...] paper sets the scene for the reader. It starts by telling the reader what is happening or has happened (the context), and ends by giving the reader a glimpse of what follows in the remainder of the article (the plot)"

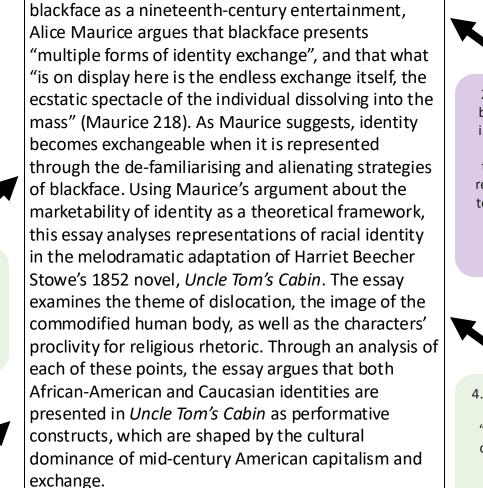
> - Thomas M. Annesley, "'It was a cold and rainy night': Set the Scene with a Good Introduction", *Clinical Chemistry*, vol. 56, no. 5, 2010, pp. 708-713.



UCD Writing Centre Email: writing.centre@ucd.ie UCD Writing Centre resources provide general writing advice only and students should always follow the specific rubric required by their School.

## **Example: Essay Introduction**

In her work on the function and popularity of



2. Provides background information about the topic using research, i.e. tells us what is known about this topic.

 Provides an outline/ a "road map" of the main points covered in the essay.

3. Provides a thesis statement, i.e. argument.

1. Introduces

the topic of

the essay, i.e. what this

essay is

about.

- Leanne Waters, "Blackface Minstrelsy and The Destabilistaion of Racial Identity in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*", Undergraduate Essay, UCD, 2008.

TIP 3: You will notice that the example above uses the Page 1 recommendations out of order. Remember, you do not have to adhere to a strict chronology; these are recommendations