Your Name

Your Professor

Course Name

Date

# This Is Your Title

This is your introduction and thesis paragraph. The introduction should be about five or six sentences and provide some background or context for your topic. Do not use I or you in academic writing. When appropriate, include recent events relating to the topic. For example, if you are writing about cyber warfare, you might mention Russia using cyber-attacks to influence the last US presidential election. Your thesis should be one sentence and outline the main points of the paper. Readers should know from your thesis exactly what to expect from your paper. If you need help writing a thesis, check out [Kibin’s Thesis Generator](https://www.kibin.com/thesis-builder/type) for argumentative or compare and contrast essays.

Research papers typically rely on three basic sources: books, articles, and websites. Usually, you want to look at books for background, which you can find on [PSCC Libraries’ OneSearch](http://pstcc-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?menuitem=0&fromTop=true&fromPreferences=true&fromEshelf=false&vid=01PSCC_default). Search OneSearch for keywords of your topic (example: cyber warfare or cyber attack) to find related articles and books. Use articles to address specific points of your argument. Articles tend to provide more recent information than books. For the most current information, you will usually look for *trustworthy* websites. Our [Opposing Viewpoints in Context](http://lib.pstcc.edu/opposingviewpoints), [Global Issues in Context](http://lib.pstcc.edu/globalissues), [Student Resources in Context](http://lib.pstcc.edu/studentsincontext), [US History in Context](http://lib.pstcc.edu/ushistoryincontext), and [World History in Context](http://lib.pstcc.edu/worldhistoryincontext) databases recommend trustworthy websites by topic (browse topic pages and look at the bottom of the topic page). Need help? [Ask a Librarian](http://libanswer.pstcc.edu/).

Each main point of your paper should start its own paragraph with a strong first sentence. Again, do not use I or you in academic writing. Get feedback on your paper at the [Tutoring Center’s Writing Center](http://www.pstcc.edu/learn/writing.php). The writing tutors are not editors but will, instead, teach you how to write better: “The tutors will discuss structure, ideas, and clarity of your paper, and suggest ideas or strategies for revising your work. While the tutors will assist you in pointing out problems such as grammar and syntax, they will not proofread or edit” (“Writing Resources”).

Anytime you summarize or quote what someone else has said, include the author’s last name and page number in parentheses at the end. If the author’s last name is in the text, just add the page number in parentheses at the end. For three or more authors, write the first author’s last name followed by “et al” and the page number in parentheses. If the source does not have an author, such as a website, put the name of the article or Web page in parentheses at the end with the page number (when available). There are special rules for [citing plays](http://lib.pstcc.edu/c.php?g=106731&p=693753) and [citing poems](http://lib.pstcc.edu/c.php?g=106731&p=693754). When citing common literature, such as George Orwell’s *1984*, include the chapter after the page number (Orwell 56, ch. 3).

The whole point of in-text citations is so your reader can find the correct source in your references, so make sure authors or titles match both in-text and in Works Cited. Find out more about in-text citation on the [PSCC Libraries’ MLA In-Text Citation page](http://lib.pstcc.edu/c.php?g=106731&p=693757).

Remember to introduce quotations with who said it and/or why it’s important. Make sure quotes fit seamlessly in your paper. Include short quotations (4 lines or less) in-text with quotation marks. Use ellipsis with spaces ( . . . ) when omitting sections from a quote and use four periods ( . . . . ) if omitting the end section of a quote.

This is a longer quote, which is more than 4 lines. Indent the quote a half-inch from the left margin and double-space it with no quotation marks. To get the right format, just click on “Quote” in the Styles area on the Word frame above. In parentheses, include the author’s last name and page number.

## Conclusion

The conclusion restates the thesis and summarizes the main arguments or points of the paper, so that your reader could just read the conclusion to generally understand the paper. What is important to learn from reading your paper? After this paragraph, there is a page break that forces Works Cited onto its own page: You will want to keep it there.

## Works Cited

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