



AN EXAMPLE OF A GOOD THESIS STATEMENT:

*In this paper, I will refute Descartes' argument for the existence of God by showing that it employs circular reasoning. This is significant because if Descartes' argument is circular then knowledge derived from our clear and distinct perceptions is cast into doubt.*

II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN INTRODUCTION?

The purpose of an introduction, in a philosophy paper, is to guide your reader through your central argument and plan for your paper.

HOW DO I CONSTRUCT AN INTRODUCTION?

There is no one way to construct an introduction. But there are several tips and questions you can also keep in mind when writing one. Remember, in an introduction, you are presenting a thesis and guiding your reader through your argument or analysis.

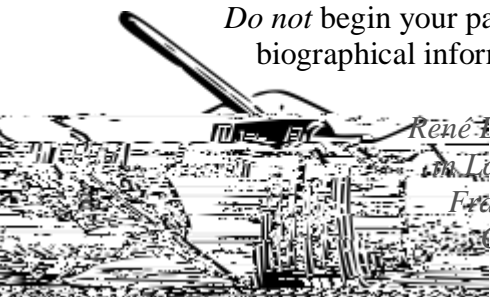
INTRODUCTION DO'S AND DON'TS:

*Do* stick to the point in your introduction!  
**Present your thesis.** What will you be arguing for in your paper? If it is in response to a philosophical position or problem, briefly explain the issue at hand.

*Do not* begin your paper with inflated, broad statements, such as:

*Descartes, dubbed the "father of modern philosophy," is the most important philosopher of the seventeenth century.*

*Do not* begin your paper with broad biographical information, such as:



*René Descartes was born in La Haye en Touraine, France to a Roman Catholic family.*

*Do* define important technical words used in your paper that your reader might not know.

If your paper is on Heidegger's *Being-in-the-world*, explain what Heidegger's term means. It might be helpful to use phrases such as:

*Being-in-the-world, Heidegger means*

*Being-in-the-world, per Heidegger, is....*

*Do not* begin your paper with broad statements, such as: