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Aims

The study skills learnt in this section should enable the student to: -

- Understand the role of Introductions
- Write effective Introductions
- Introduce arguments
- Gain the reader's attention

Section 1: Opening Comments

An introduction is a paragraph that marks the beginning of a written assignment. In an essay it often consists of one opening paragraph, whilst in a larger work it merits a separate section (of a few or many paragraphs) all of its own.

Its main role is to: -

- 1.1 Define key terms
- 1.2 Give reasons as to why a particular subject is being addressed
- 1.3 Outline any unavoidable limitations to the present written work
- 1.4 Clearly put forward the main subject (as distinct from subsidiary subjects)
- 1.5 State any key assumptions or prejudices
- 1.6 Acknowledge and thank outside help given. In a larger work this may require its own separate section, entitled '*Acknowledgements*'.

Section 2: Types of Introduction

Types of Introduction include: -

- 2.1 An '*Executive Summary*' which places all of the main points together
- 2.2 A '*Foreword*' which introduces someone else's work
- 2.3 A list of '*Key Definitions*' (especially in technical subjects)
- 2.4 A '*Preface*' containing personal comments about how the work was produced
- 2.5 A '*Synopsis*' – giving a brief outline of the whole work

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