



SLU CALM Resources

Academic Writing Introductions and Conclusions

Writing Introductions

Before you write your Introduction, you should have gone through the steps of Brainstorming, Researching, and writing a Plan or Outline.

An effective Introduction, whether it is for an essay, report or any other form of writing, must:

- introduce the topic of the essay (in your own words)
- give some general background information
- indicate the main points to be covered
- perhaps indicate the method of organisation of the whole paper
- hopefully arouse the reader's interest in the topic.

TOPIC:

Describe the major health care reforms initiated during the past 20 years and discuss the impact each has made on Australia's health care system.

First draft Introduction which, in this case, is very direct.

Over the past twenty years there have been major and significant reforms within the health care system in Australia. Just recently case mix funding has been introduced to assist hospitals with their policies of caring for people, and previously to this 'hospital to home' funding was implemented, but the biggest change for Australians was the introduction of the Medicare system which has proved to be a permanent system of financial assistance.

Alternative draft Introduction - which follows the format of global to specific. However, you might need to have your lecturer's or tutor's approval to limit your essay to discussing Victoria only.

Over the past twenty years there have been a number of significant changes to the health care system in Australia. Some of these changes have occurred at the local government level, some at the state government level and others at the Federal level. This paper will examine reforms at the state level for Victoria. This focus has been chosen because it is at this level that changes have had the most impact. Rather than superficially describing a large number of reforms, a detailed

description and analysis will be presented of three revisions: the Workcare system, the deinstitutionalization of mental health patients, and the introduction of case-mix funding.

Writing Conclusions

A piece of writing is not complete without a conclusion. A conclusion should:

- Address the question/topic/aim as stated in the Introduction
- Summarize key ideas
- Introduce no new information
- Provide own view, based on evidence presented, if required