

# How to Write an Essay Introduction

## 1. Lead-in

- A lead-in refers to the 'beginning of a beginning'
- The hardest part of writing for many students may be the starting on the first few lines of their essays. How should we begin to write?

There are a few ways to write a lead-in:

### 1. Discuss the importance/significance of the topic in the question

- In other words, why are/should we talk about this issue? Why is it relevant or crucial for us to start discussing about it?

Example Qn: *"Social media has made teenagers more vulnerable to the risks of cyber-bullying. Do you agree?"*

- Your lead-in may explore the urgency of addressing the problem of cyberbullying given how ubiquitous the usage of social media is amongst youths today.
- You may also briefly explain the negative impacts of cyberbullying, such as psychological trauma, social anxiety and emotional distress.

### Example paragraph:

Social media platforms have become **immensely** popular with youths these days, especially since they offer an endless flow of **entertaining** content and the **convenience** of connecting with others. Worryingly, what has also been on the rise is the number of cyberbullying incidents across the globe. Despite the benefits of social media, these sites have made it easier for these teenagers to fall prey to malicious cyberbullying attacks. **(To explain the why the problem will get worse)** With more youths participating in social media, it is likely that the trend of cyberbullying will intensify. Government agencies, schools and parents have been discussing possible ways to remedy/rectify/address this problem of cyberbullying, given that victims often suffer from **long-term psychological distress and anxiety.** **(to explain the consequences of this problem)**

## 2. Define what the key terms mean to you/how these key terms are commonly understood

- Explain what the important terms in the question mean to you, especially for broad terms that can be very subjective (e.g. “success” or “home”)
- Example question (for subjective terms): What does home mean to you and what are some qualities that makes up an ideal home environment?

Defining what is ‘home’ to you:

- A place of residence
- A place for family-building (?)
- A place where the individual can be truly themselves
- A place where the individual feels safe and comfortable
- A place where the individual is free to engage in their own hobbies

How you answer the rest of the question must be aligned with your definition of ‘home’ that you stated in your intro.

- If home is a place meant for family building, then it should be well-furnished, have adequate facilities (e.g. rooms, kitchens, tables, etc.) and spacious enough for families to sustain a decent lifestyle with.
- If home is a place for the individual to feel safe & be themselves, then it should be well-protected and free from constant surveillance.
- Sometimes the question may not always contain a problem, and if so, you should try to focus on explaining **the theme** of the question

Example Qn: ***Describe a place which means a great deal to you. Why is it so important?***

- The main theme of this question is about **places** and how people often form **emotional connections** to them.
- Your lead-in may explore the significance of places in people’s everyday lives and how some of them may feel more important to us than others, depending on what we did in those places and the memories they hold.

Example paragraph:

We spend all of our lives in one place or another – be it our homes, workplace or public spaces. **The places we spend time in will form the backdrop to our memories.** We may not always be aware of our surroundings, **but every aspect of a place** – from its smell, sights and

sounds – **has an impact on our experiences**. For many reasons, we may cherish some places more than others. It may be because it was where a **life-changing moment** occurred for us, or it could have been where **we sought refuge during our darkest days**.

## **2. Listing down your points**

- **Summarize** the key points you will be discussing in the your essay
- How this summary will look like depends on the essay type – an argumentative essay will have a very different set of points compared to a narrative essay
- In order to be pen down a short summary of your points, you should plan out your points beforehand.
- **This summary of key points should not be more than 2 sentences!** Keep it clear and concise.

Example Qn: **What are the pros and cons of Home-Based Learning? Discuss.**

<Part 1 of Intro/Lead-in: To describe the significance of HBL, why did HBL come about, what does HBL mean).

<Part 2: summary key points> Some advantages of Home-Based Learning includes **students saving on travelling time** and **transportation costs** and being **able to learn from the comforts of their home**. On the other hand, Home-Based Learning may have **drawbacks/disadvantages/limitations** such as **excluding students without access to digital devices** and the **unpredictable risks of technological disruptions**.