



**Writing and Study Skills Services – Laurier Brantford**  
**Introduction and Conclusion**

**The Introduction**

**Understanding the Introduction (Stewart and Allen 80)**

- Appears at the beginning of the essay
- Defines the range of material that you will cover
- Includes the thesis (usually at the end, but not always)
- Provides context and gives all the necessary and relevant background info – authors, works, titles, dates, places
- Classifies, defines key terms, sketches development of a situation, gives examples, anecdotes, and descriptions

**Introduction Tips**

- Avoid making large claims or over generalizations
- Be concise and get right to the point. Avoid philosophical tangents such as “As history shows us...”; they waste a lot of space and do not impress the reader
- The introduction does not have to be written first:
  - Often people start with a working introduction that consists mainly of their thesis
  - Once the paper is written, you will know what information you covered and this can help you write an effective introduction

**The Conclusion**

A convincing conclusion is a necessary part of a convincing argument. Remember that most readers remember best the last thing they read. A conclusion also serves to unify the entire paper.

**Components of a Convincing Conclusion (Stewart and Allen 82)**

- Reiterate your thesis
- Explain the importance of your main points
- Discuss the broader implications of the topic:

**Conclusion Tips**

- Move from specific to general
- Emphasize the significance of your subject:
  - After reading your essay, ask yourself “so what?” Your conclusion should provide the answer

Work Cited:

Stewart, Kay L. and Marian E. Allen. *A Brief Guide and Handbook: Forms of Writing*. 3rd ed. Toronto: Prentice Hall, 2000. Print.