

## “Dressing Up” an Introduction

You have been introduced to a simple method (accordion essay) for writing a multi-paragraph paper. The introductory paragraphs that you practiced were two-sentence paragraphs (thesis + projected plan). These 2-sentence paragraphs are handy and will help you complete many writing tasks in a school or business setting.



You are, however, not limited to a short introduction. Introductions can be any length. You can learn to “dress up” an introduction by adding more background information that you share with your readers to make the introduction more interesting. Read the following introduction written by an 8th grader. The italics represents the thesis statement and the projected plan has been underlined.

### **We May Not Be Alone**

by James Boyd

Throughout history people have been seeing strange things like flying saucers and alien creatures. But recently there have been many more sightings. *Although there have been thousands of sightings, some people still believe that our world is the only one that has intelligent life on it.* To try to find out if there is intelligent life on other worlds, we need to look at the people who claim to have seen unidentified flying objects (UFOs), study the descriptions given, and analyze the explanations for these sightings.

**How do you “dress up” your 2-sentence introduction? Try some of these strategies:**

- tell a story (anecdote)
- use humor
- use a quotation
- include poetry
- start with a question that you will answer in your paper
- present important facts related to the topic
- make a bold or startling statement
- illustrate your topic with an example from the news, television, history, movies, or literature