Writing Introductions

Create an attention grabbing introduction using one of the following strategies:

1. **Ask a series of questions about a topic which you can connect to your essay:**
   Is there anything about yourself you’d like to change? Do you know anyone who has undergone a sudden change in attitude? What would it take to change your mind about something important to you? er **(Now introduce character and/or literature)** Charles Dickens famous character Ebenezer Scrooge undergoes a major change of attitude after he visited by three ghosts. Although these spirits incite this change, . . . (Place thesis statement as last sentence of this introduction.)

2. **Use a quote from a poem or song that can be connected to your topic:**
   I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
   Their old familiar carols play
   And wild and sweet the words repeat
   Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.
   *(oldielyrics.com)*

   Longfellow’s poem was written during the same time as one of the most famous Christmas stories. Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* in 1843. This idea of “goodwill to men” is obviously important to the story and the change in Ebenezer Scrooge. Israel Horovitz continues this theme in his adaption *A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley*. (Write one more sentence before finishing with your thesis statement).

3. **Use a series of adjectives or nouns that can be connected to your topic:**
   Miser, penny-pinch, money-grubber . . . . All of these describe one of the most famous characters in English literature, Ebenezer Scrooge. **(Now introduce title and author in a sentence. Mention Christmas in another sentence and lead into your thesis statement.)**

4. **Use a famous or important line from the literature:**
   “Bob! Make up the fires and buy another coal scuttle before you dot another i, Bob. It’s too cold in this place! We need warmth and cheer, Bob Cratchit! Do you hear me?” (533) These word were quite shocking to the timid clerk working for Ebenezer Scrooge. However, readers know that Scrooge underwent a fantastic change overnight. How could such a change occur so quickly? **(Now create a connection to characters helping Scrooge. Then use thesis statement.)**

5. **Show, Don’t Tell. Describe a scene using vivid details:**
   Muffled giggles resound as a playful daughter hides behind the kitchen cupboard. A younger boy and girl suppress their smiles and stand suspiciously in front of the cabinet hoping to surprise their unknowing father. The door opens and closes quickly as the wind causes curtains to fly, and father enters carrying a wide-eyed, shivering, slip of a boy. The children welcome their father and brother with hugs and kisses. After the bad news is given that the eldest daughter may not be coming for Christmas, out pops the smiling young lady clad still in her working dress but full of smiles. The father’s laughter fills the room, and the family cheers.

   Such could be a scene in the classic story *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The Cratchits are not just any family. They represent the best of mankind. **(Now add thesis statement.)**