Writing a Good Introduction:

Purpose:
1. Grab the attention of the reader
   a. Some common strategies used to attract the reader’s interest to an essay are:
      - Relate a dramatic anecdote
      - Express a commonly held belief
      - Present surprising facts and statistics
      - Use a fitting quotation/question
      - Tell a vivid personal story
      - Define a key term
      - Present an interesting observation
      - Create a unique scenario

2. Provide background information
   a. You can give examples, stories, etc.

3. Stating the central idea, or thesis
   a. The thesis should normally be one sentence, usually at the end of your introduction
   b. The thesis should be a statement of opinion or a proposition. It will be what you want to argue or prove to the reader.

Content:
An introduction can range from one paragraph to multiple paragraphs in length, depending on the size of the essay. For longer essays, including research papers, the introduction will usually be longer, whereas shorter essays call for shorter introductions.