Now that you’ve learned the four main approaches to introduction writing, try workshopping or brainstorming your introduction using the following activities:

**Review**

First, let’s briefly review each approach at writing an introduction:

1. Anecdotal: starts with an intriguing story that relates to the subject; the anecdote can be personal or textual (i.e., it can come from your life or from your research).
2. Paradoxical: shows what seems improbable about the subject, but is nonetheless true; what about this subject is strange or striking?
3. Corrective: shows the ways the subject has been misunderstood, neglected, or misrepresented; what about this subject is still unknown or needs to be corrected?
4. Urgent: shows how the topic urgently affects the health or welfare of a person or group; what about this seemingly academic topic impacts the broader world?

**Activity**

Anecdotal:

It’s important to keep anecdotal introductions relevant to your paper topic and thesis statement, as well as relatively brief. It’s okay to expand on your anecdote later on in the paper if it strengthens your argument, but the introduction should just be a taste of what is to come to draw the reader in. Use the space below to think of relevant personal or textual stories/examples that will fit your thesis statement. For example, you could think about how coming to college has helped you exit the cave, connecting your personal experiences to Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave”.

Corrective/Paradoxical:

One common method for beginning a paper is to start by introducing what others have said about your topic, whether it is something assumed true but actually isn’t (Corrective Method), or something often assumed improbable or untrue, but is surprisingly true or strange (Paradoxical Method). Below, brainstorm a few opening phrases for both a Corrective and a Paradoxical introduction:

Urgent:

When thinking about this method, try to mentally answer these questions: *Why is this important? Why should others care about it? What would happen if people ignored this problem? Why do I care about this?* Once you feel you have a grasp on these questions, turn your answers into convincing statements that connect to or introduce your thesis: