

Re-imagining Introductions and Roadmaps: Making Arguments Legible and Accessible

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Cognitive Accessibility For All

- Elizabeth Ibbly Grace, “Cognitively Accessible Language (Why We Should Care)”
- “If you use plain language to describe and discuss even complex theories, more people will be able to read your writing. Not everyone will believe this is a good thing.”
 - Ableism
 - Classism
 - Racism

<https://thefeministwire.com/2013/11/cognitively-accessible-language-why-we-should-care/>

Introductions and Exigence

- Focus on context and exigence
 - Long setups can lose readers.
- Avoiding clichés with an “inverted triangle” structure
 - Connects your topic to other people’s work
 - Connects to social and popular issues
 - Leads directly to your topic



Claims

- Thesis: statement of argument
 - Major claim plus minor claims
 - Differences across disciplines reside here re Context + Problem + Response (Social Sciences vs. Humanities)
- Claims + Reasons + Evidence + Acknowledgements + Principles/Warrants
- Ex: “Given what we now know about the history of eugenics in the US and Mexico during the Mexican American War, we can now understand marriage practices among settler and established families as another (embodied) rhetoric of Manifest Destiny.”

Roadmap

→ *Not your “three reasons why”!*

- Literature review
 - Establishing a history
- Brief precap of major terms and methodologies
- Argument
 - Connecting previous views to new insights
 - Depending on field, foreshadowing or declaring conclusions