Retrofitting Introductions

This activity follows up on Retrofitting Problems, making students take the further step of writing a full-scale introduction.

Materials

At least three or four well-written research papers without introductions but with complete conclusions. If possible, have soft copies as well.

Process

1. Have students work through Retrofitting Problems or read each paper, picking out the claim and major reasons.

2. Assign students to write an introduction for some or all of the papers, if possible adding them to soft copies available on a server or Web page so that they can print and mark up the complete papers.

3. Have students show how the introduction matches the conclusion. They should do the following:

   - Put a box around the common ground, another around the problem statement, and a third around the resolution.
   - Underline the (re)statement of the claim in the conclusion.
   - Circle words in the introduction that refer to key themes. Circle those words or words like them throughout the paper.
   - Briefly state how the paper resolves the problem stated in the introduction.