

## Writing Activity: Getting to Know Them

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An **introductory essay** introduces the subject of a book.

Introductory essays are used at the beginning of books to capture readers' interest and to tell them what to expect. To better understand what an introductory essay does, think about what you might tell a friend about a book or movie you think he or she would enjoy. What kinds of information would you offer about the subject of the movie or book?

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**Directions:** Using questions in the chart on the following screens, gather information for your intro essay from what you already know about gods and goddesses and from what you've learned from this anthology so far. You'll want to refer to the selections in Cluster One and to the gallery of Gods and Goddesses on pages 12–13 for examples. Add any additional questions you think should be answered in your introductory essay in the spaces provided.

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Questions to be answered in introductory essay	Examples
How are gods and goddesses different from humans?	
How are they similar to humans?	

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Questions to be answered in introductory essay	Examples
What are their relationships with each other like?	
What are their relationships with humans like?	

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Questions to be answered in introductory essay	Examples
What special powers do they have?	
What are some of their domains, or areas that they oversee?	

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Questions to be answered in introductory essay	Examples

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### **Remember, an strong introductory essay**

- introduces the subject in a general way
- uses interesting examples to capture reader interest
- tells readers what to expect in the book