

# Research Paper Outline

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Block: \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of an outline is to help you think through your topic carefully and organize it logically before you start writing. A good outline is the most important step in writing a good paper. Check your outline to make sure the points covered flow logically from one to the other. Include an INTRODUCTION, a BODY, and a CONCLUSION.

## **THESIS:**

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**INTRODUCTION** - State your thesis and the purpose of your research paper clearly. What is the chief reason you are writing the paper? Also state how you plan to approach your topic. Briefly explain the major points you plan to cover in your paper, and why readers should be interested in your topic.

### **I. Introduction**

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

**BODY** - This is where you present your arguments to support your thesis statement. Remember the *Rule of 3*, i.e. find 3 supporting arguments for each position you take. Begin with a strong argument, then use a stronger one, and end with the strongest argument for your final point.

### **II. Subtopic/Topic Sentence 1**

Supporting details:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

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### **III. Subtopic/Topic Sentence 2**

Supporting details:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

### **IV. Subtopic/Topic Sentence 3**

Supporting details:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

**CONCLUSION** - Restate or reword your thesis. Summarize your arguments. Explain why you have come to this particular conclusion.

### **V. Conclusion**

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

*Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). A Research Guide for Students. "Make a Tentative Outline." <http://www.aresearchguide.com/1steps.html>*