

Sample Outline Format for Senior Project

- I. Introduction
 - A. Lead a word, question, quote, analogy that relates to the topic and captures the interest of the reader
 - B. Background of your topic (3-5 sentences)
 - C. Thesis statement (1 [complex or compound or both] sentence that states an arguable opinion that includes main points that will form the evidence for argument). The order of the main points/argument in the body must follow the order of the main points/argument in the thesis statement.
- II. Body
 - A. [Main point /Argument]
 - 1. [Researched info] (parenthetical information: author's last name # or "Article title").
 - 2. [Researched info] (parenthetical information: author's last name # or "Article title").
 - B. [Main point /Argument]
 - 1. [Researched info] (parenthetical information: author's last name # or "Article title").
 - 2. [Researched info] (parenthetical information: author's last name # or "Article title").
 - C. [Main point /Argument]
 - 1. [Researched info] (parenthetical information: author's last name # or "Article title").
 - 2. [Researched info] (parenthetical information: author's last name # or "Article title").
- III. Conclusion
 - A. Restate thesis statement—change the wording
 - B. Restate main points-- change the wording and keep same order as the thesis statement
 - C. Go beyond—what does this research reveal about the nature of mankind or the world? What's the bigger picture, or relevance, or implications based on this research?

Remember the outline heading comes in pairs:

If there is an A., there must also be a B.

If there is a point 1, there must also be a point 2.

All points must have parenthetical documentation that indicates where the information is from.

Basic Body Paragraph Outline Format

I. [Main idea]

- A. [Topic sentence/transitional sentence]
 - 1. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation/sub point
 - 1) Detail of explanation or sub point
 - 2) Detail of explanation or sub point
 - a). Additional info
 - b). Additional info
 - b. Explanation
 - 2. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation
 - b. Explanation
- B. [Topic sentence/transitional sentence]
 - 1. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation/sub point
 - b. Explanation/sub point
 - 2. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation/sub point
 - b. Explanation/sub point

II. [Main idea]

- A. [Topic sentence/transitional sentence]
 - 1. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Subpoint (parenthetical documentation)
 - b. Subpoint (parenthetical documentation)
 - 2. Point (parenthetical documentation)
- B. [Topic sentence/transitional sentence]
 - 1. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation/sub point
 - b. Explanation/sub point
 - 2. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation/sub point
 - b. Explanation/sub point
- C. [Topic sentence/transitional sentence]
 - 1. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation/sub point
 - b. Explanation/sub point
 - 2. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation/sub point
 - b. Explanation/sub point

III. [Main idea]

- A. [Topic]
 - 1. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation/sub point
 - b. Explanation/sub point
 - 2. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation/sub point
 - b. Explanation/sub point
- B. [Topic]
 - 1. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation/sub point
 - b. Explanation/sub point
 - 2. Point (parenthetical documentation)
 - a. Explanation/sub point
 - b. Explanation/sub point