Infectious Disease Research Paper Outline Instructions

1. Introductory paragraph – begin with general information
    a. Topic sentence
    b. Define and describe "infectious disease"
    c. Introduce the disease you are researching
    d. Basic information about the disease
        i. Name
        ii. Rare or common?
        iii. For example: age range of persons who typically get it
        iv. _____
        v. _____
    e. What source(s) are you using for this information?
2. First recorded occurrence
    a. What source(s) are you using for this information?
    b. Topic sentence
    c. Where? Name of country, city or town
    d. Names of people who identified it or were otherwise involved
    e. When? Exact dates, if available. General time, decade or century
    f. Here is a good place to talk about the history of the disease
3. Common Signs and Symptoms
    a. What source(s) are you using for this information?
    b. Topic sentence
    c. List the most common symptoms
    d. What does a person experience or feel who has this disease?
    e. Here would be a good place to include information you learn from interviewing someone who has had this disease or who knows someone who has had the disease
4. Diagnosis
    a. What source(s) are you using for this information?
    b. Topic sentence
    c. How do doctors diagnose this disease?
    d. Do they have to run tests?
    e. Are there telltale signs of this disease?
    f. Are there any tests or equipment used to diagnose?
    g. Here would be a good place to tell the story of someone who was diagnosed with this disease; what did the doctor say? Were they scared when they learned they had the disease?
5. Treatment/Prevention
    a. What source(s) are you using for this information?
    b. Topic sentence
    c. How do people catch this disease?

    d. Is the disease completely preventable? If not, can something be done to reduce the likelihood of getting the disease?
    e. If someone gets the disease, is it treatable?
    f. What treatments are used? Medicine? Therapy?
6. Complications, if applicable
    a. What source(s) are you using for this information?
    b. Topic sentence
    c. Does the disease get worse if not treated? If so, what happens? For example, if a person gets strep throat and does not treat it, it can turn into scarlet fever, which can cause permanent heart damage.
    d. Are there other illnesses or problems that are common with this disease?
    e. How might this disease get worse?
7. Prognosis
    a. What source(s) are you using for this information?
    b. Topic sentence
    c. Can people die from this disease? If so, do they usually die, sometimes die, or only rarely die?
    d. Can the treatments completely get rid of the disease? Or do they only manage the symptoms?
    e. Are there any problems that occur from this disease that never go away? For example, are people sometimes crippled or brain damaged, or is their immune system weakened?
    f. Do people usually completely recover from the disease?
8. Concluding Paragraph
    a. At least five sentences
    b. Topic sentence
    c. Basically, tell the readers what you just told them.

Guidelines:

- Be sure to use transition words between each paragraph.
- Each paragraph should be at least five sentences in length. In most cases, the paragraphs will be longer.
- Try to use at least two sources in each paragraph.