

SAMPLE MLA OUTLINE FOR ENGLISH 112 CAUSAL ANALYSIS

(Use as many letters and numbers as you need to do your job. The following is just a generic example.)

- I. Introduction
 - A. Hook and introduce topic
 - B. Still introducing topic to audience
 - C. Thesis (put thesis in whatever order in intro you like)
- II. Background / history (give a chronological sequence up to present), using research and commentary
 - A. History/background (Build in chronological order for history)
 1. Relevant research / commentary
 2. Relevant research / commentary
 - B. History/background
 1. Relevant research / commentary
 2. Relevant research / commentary
 - C. Has led to Current Situation
 1. Relevant research / commentary
 2. Relevant research/ commentary
- III. Evaluative Claim

Based on causes, you form a judgment, make an evaluation of the current situation—which will be negative, because this will lead into your proposal in your next essay to “fix the problem.”

(Note: Use letters and numbers as set out above as needed. You may make an

evaluation which does not require subparts other than research which supports your points of view, your evaluation.)

IV. Causal Argument

A. Cause A

1. Relevant research and analysis / argument
2. Relevant research and analysis / argument

B. Cause B

1. Relevant research and analysis / argument
2. Relevant research and analysis / argument

V. Counterargument or Counterclaim

A. Counterargument(s)

1. Relevant research
2. Analysis from counter's POV

B. Rebuttal to counterargument(s)

1. Relevant research, if needed
2. Rebut logically and fairly the preceding counterargument

VI. Conclusion / (Transition for proposal)

A. Resummarize thesis/enthymeme, and major points of essay

B. Submit, briefly, proposal—where we should go from here to correct problems set out in causal argument (This will be your transition in the major research essay which goes from causal analysis into proposal, and by that time it will be very specific.)