

Essay Outline [Basic]

I. Introduction

- A. Opening:** Use an example, relevant quote, anecdote, or fact to hook the reader and get them interested. Convince them to care and keep reading.
- B. Transition:** Get to the point! No rambling about society, people, history, etc.
- C. Thesis:** Argument with position, Strength, & 3 Main Points

II. Main Point #1

- A. Topic Sentence:** Restate in different words the Main Point to be discussed in this paragraph.
- B. Expand:** Add to explanation given in Introduction to show importance of this Main Point. Go one step further than the Topic Sentence.
- C. Introduce:** Introduce or provide context for the example, quote or statistic.
- D. Copy/Cite:** Copy quote, example, or statistic in paper and include proper citation.
- E. Explain:** Explain how this quote supports the Main Point and *why this specific quote was chosen for this specific point*.
- F. Concluding Statement:** Relate Main Point back to Thesis Statement and explain how it supports the overall argument.

III. Main Point #2 [Repeat MP #1 structure]

IV. Main Point #3 [Repeat MP #1 structure]

V. Conclusion

- A. Restate Thesis:** Restate in different words.
- B. Highlight:** Go over conclusions of each of the Main Points.
- C. Prove Thesis:** Pull all conclusions together to show how they prove your thesis.
- D. Concluding Statement:** Use a call to action, prediction, example, or relevant quote. Show why your essay/argument is relevant and important.



Original content by Sarah Paruolo, 2017