

Guidelines for the Team Research Project Outline**DUE: Thursday, November 15 by the beginning of class**

An outline makes any research assignment easier because it helps you organize the ideas and concepts hierarchically and helps you keep track of large amounts of information. For group projects, the outline can help each member of the group understand what their individual contributions and responsibilities are so that everyone understands who is contributing to which part of the final assignment: researching and writing the script for the podcast.

For your project outline (worth 15% of your total course grade):

- From the research topic each group has developed, develop an outline that shows how you will research and present your topic in a format that advances your original thoughts with evidence from your research. Your outline forms a structure for your podcast and shows your audience how the evidence you find from your research, combined with your own analysis, takes the audience from your research question to your conclusions.
- Your outline should restate your research question; no need to include the entire topic proposal. You may use short phrases rather than complete sentences to describe your arguments and supporting subdivisions. Each supporting section or subdivision should be distinct, yet related to the argument.
- Your outline must be well organized and tell me how you plan to answer your research question with evidence from your research that supports your own arguments
- You may indicate a source or multiple sources for each subdivision, as appropriate; this may help you remember which sources support which arguments when it comes time to write and revise the draft.
- You can use or adapt this template to organize your outline:
 - I. Introduction – **ask the research question at the top of the document**
 - a. Relevance
 - b. Background information and context
 - II. First argument with supporting evidence from your research
 - a. Subdivision one – one piece of evidence to support your argument with supporting details (Source)
 - b. Subdivision two – another piece of evidence to support your argument with supporting details (Source)
 - c. Repeat as needed
 - III. Second argument with supporting evidence from your research
 - a. Subdivision one – one piece of evidence to support your argument with supporting details (Source)
 - b. Subdivision two – another piece of evidence to support your argument with supporting details (Source)
 - c. Repeat as needed
 - IV. Third argument with supporting evidence from your research
 - a. Subdivision one – one piece of evidence to support your argument with supporting details (Source)
 - b. Subdivision two – another piece of evidence to support your argument with supporting details (Source)
 - c. Repeat as needed
 - V. Conclusion
 - a. Answer to the research question; is there an answer?
 - b. Recommendations for further study

- You may have more than three arguments with supporting evidence. Each argument should carry approximately equal weight in your analysis of the research question
- Each group should submit the outline as a Word doc, PDF, or in Google Docs and share a link in a new post on the OpenLab before the beginning of class on Thursday, November 15; use 12-point font and 1" margins
- Further guidance on writing outlines can be found here:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/the_writing_process/developing_an_outline/how_to_outline.html

As always, please contact your professors with questions about this assignment

Grading chart for your outline:

	Insufficient (0-4 points)	Developing (5-8 points)	Competent (9-12 points)	Excellent (13-15 points)
Relevance	The outline does not relate to the research proposal.	Most of the outline is not clearly related to the research proposal	The outline is related to the research proposal, but the research question is not clearly addressed	The outline is relevant to the research proposal.
Focus	The outline lacks a main topic and a research question or problem.	An appropriate topic has been selected; however, the outline does not include a research question or problem.	An appropriate topic has been selected and a research question or problem is included.	An appropriate topic has been selected, and a research question or problem is considered reflectively.
Structure	The structure of the outline is unclear and vague; points to support the main argument are missing or incomplete.	The structure of the outline is inconsistent or incomplete, but some points to support the research topic are present.	Much of the outline is clear, but a few parts are incomplete or undeveloped.	The structure of the outline is clear and points to support the research topic are presented logically.
Sources	None of the arguments are backed up by sources	Few of the arguments are backed up by sources	Some of the arguments are backed up by sources	Most or all of the arguments are backed up by sources
Assignment requirements	The outline is less than a half a page in length.	The outline is about half of one page in length.	The outline is nearly one page in length.	The outline is one page or more in length
Writing mechanics	All sentences & phrases are grammatically incorrect or have errors in punctuation, spelling, or capitalization.	Most sentences & phrases are grammatically incorrect or have errors in punctuation, spelling, or capitalization.	Some sentences & phrases are grammatically incorrect or have errors in punctuation, spelling, or capitalization.	All or almost all sentences & phrases are grammatically correct or are free of punctuation, spelling, or capitalization errors.