

# Essay Outline Template

## Introduction

Don't make the reader guess what your essay is about! In your thesis statement, tell the reader exactly **what** position your essay will put forward. Then list your arguments, or **how** you'll support your position. The intro is a map that gives your essay a sense of logical organization and progression.

### General Statement

A short statement to give context to your reader on the subject you will cover

### Thesis Statement

The main argument of your paper

### Overview

Your arguments you will use to support your thesis. These should be in the order you will present them in your essay

## Body Paragraph 1

In your body paragraphs you should be supporting your thesis by presenting and explaining your main arguments that you brought up in your introduction. Each argument should have its own body paragraph in your essay.

In each paragraph you should explain each argument, support it with evidence, then analyse that evidence to show how it supports your argument in the paragraph and the thesis of your paper.

### Topic sentence

Introduces the main argument of this paragraph

### Evidence

The examples or information you will use to support your argument. You should introduce your example or information to give it context. This should be a substantial portion of your paragraph.

### Analysis of evidence to support topic sentence/thesis

For each piece of evidence you present you should analyse that evidence to show your reader exactly how that supports your argument in this paragraph and your thesis for your overall paper. This should be a substantial portion of your paragraph.

### Concluding sentence

You should sum up your arguments to show how they support your topic sentence

## Body Paragraph 2

Your second body paragraph should be your second main argument. Use your topic sentences to decide if you have a complete argument. Don't try to cram too many points into one paragraph. If you are trying to put too many different arguments into one paragraph your topic sentence to cover them all will be too big. If that's what's happening, just break your argument into smaller pieces, each with their own clear topic sentence and paragraph

### Topic sentence

Introduces the main argument of this paragraph

### Evidence

The examples or information you will use to support your argument. You should introduce your example or information to give it context. This should be a substantial portion of your paragraph.

### Analysis of evidence to support topic sentence/thesis

For each piece of evidence you present you should analyse that evidence to show your reader exactly how that supports your argument in this paragraph and your thesis for your overall paper. This should be a substantial portion of your paragraph.

### Concluding sentence

You should sum up your arguments to show how they support your topic sentence

## Body Paragraph 3

You should have a separate paragraph for each argument in your essay. You should usually have at least three main arguments, so three body paragraphs. However, if you have more than three main arguments you can have as many body paragraphs as you have arguments

### Topic sentence

Introduces the main argument of this paragraph

### Evidence

The examples or information you will use to support your argument. You should introduce your example or information to give it context. This should be a substantial portion of your paragraph.

### Analysis of evidence to support topic sentence/thesis

For each piece of evidence you present you should analyse that evidence to show your reader exactly how that supports your argument in this paragraph and your thesis for your overall paper. This should be a substantial portion of your paragraph.

### Concluding sentence

You should sum up your arguments to show how they support your topic sentence

## Conclusion

This is where you show off the fact that all of the evidence you've selected and analyzed proves your thesis. Restate your thesis not as a hypothesis but as an established fact. Succinctly summarize your main points. In the last sentence of your paper, you can "zoom out" to reveal your topic's importance in a wider context.

### **Summarize and Synthesize main points**

Summarize the main points from each of your paragraphs to show the progression of your argument.

### **Restate Thesis**

Restate your thesis as an established fact based on your arguments

### **Importance of essay/ Further areas of inquiry**

Briefly explain where your conclusions fit into the broader context of the topic, or state other areas of inquiry that could be pursued to expand on these conclusions. This step is optional.