

Creating an outline is a helpful method of organizing your ideas and your evidence. For research papers, an outline helps you keep track of large amounts of information. For analytical essays, an outline helps you coordinate and develop your insights. The greater the level of detail in your outline, the easier it will be to turn your outline's details into sentences, then into the actual essay itself. If you struggle with keeping your ideas organized and clear, you may want to write the entire essay in outline format, so that the last step you take is to remove the Roman numerals, letters, etc.

- I. Introduction
  - a. Identify important authors and sources
  - b. If needed, provide key pieces of background information
  - c. Identify key terms or questions
  - b. Thesis statement
  
- II. Body Paragraph 1
  - a. Topic sentence
    1. Assertion
      - i. Supporting evidence
      - ii. Explanation of supporting evidence
      - iii. Connection of supporting evidence to thesis
    2. Assertion
      - i. Supporting evidence
      - ii. Explanation of supporting evidence
      - iii. Connection of supporting evidence to thesis
  - b. Concluding sentence that restates / complicates the topic sentence
  
- III. Body Paragraph 2
  - a. Topic sentence
    1. Assertion
      - i. Supporting evidence
      - ii. Explanation of supporting evidence
      - iii. Connection of supporting evidence to thesis
    2. Assertion
      - i. Supporting evidence
      - ii. Explanation of supporting evidence
      - iii. Connection of supporting evidence to thesis
  - b. Concluding sentence that restates / complicates the topic sentence
  
- IV. Body Paragraph 3, 4, 5, 6, 7...etc.
  
- IV. Conclusion
  - a. Re-state the thesis in a new way, assess the significance of your topic, pose questions for further research, etc.

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