

Research Paper Outline*

This template is for a research paper (essay) with three main points. This template may be adjusted to fit your needs. If you need to add extra details, just add them.

- Your final outline must be word-processed. It must be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font.
- You must include the sources that you are using in parentheses.

Please include the following:

- 1) working title – This may change by the time you complete your paper.
- 2) thesis statement – this sentence should be a statement, not a question, of what you intend to prove in your paper. The thesis statement includes a mention of the three main points to come. You may need to revise the thesis statement several times during the course of writing the paper.
- 3) the three (or more) major points you plan to make in your research paper. Each of these major points should support the thesis statement.
- 4) topic sentences – one for each of your three major points
- 5) two details, pieces of information, or evidence from your notes with the sources listed (in parentheses) for each of your major points
- 6) concluding sentence and lead-in for the next paragraph – one for each paragraph. These sentences should remind you how you should consistently be communicating to your readers why you're telling them what you're telling them.
- 7) conclusion for your research paper – The conclusion should sum up the reasons you have given that support your thesis. You should add insight by giving some thoughts on the implications of what you have just written or proven.

Title of your research paper _____

Thesis statement: _____

Introduction – We will write this together in class. The introduction should contain a “hook”, general quote, or interesting fact. You will then add two-three broad, general statements, and your thesis statement.

I. Topic sentence for main point #1 _____

A. Subtopic from main point #1 _____

1. Detail or example from your note cards (with source)

2. Detail or example from your note card (with source)

3. Detail or example from your note card (with source) – if needed

B. Subtopic from main point #2 _____

1. Detail or example from your note cards (with source)

2. Detail or example from your note cards (with source)

3. Detail or example from your note cards (with source) – if needed

Concluding sentence and lead-in about how the details or examples for main point #3 support the thesis

II. Topic sentence for main point #3 _____

A. Subtopic from main point #3 _____

1. Detail or example from your note cards (with source)

2. Detail or example from your note card (with source)

3. Detail or example from your note card (with source) – if needed

B. Subtopic from main point #3 _____

1. Detail or example from your note cards (with source)

2. Detail or example from your note cards (with source)

3. Detail or example from your note cards (with source) – if needed

Concluding sentence and lead-in about how the details or examples for main point #2 support the thesis

III. Topic sentence for main point #1 _____

A. Subtopic from main point #1 _____

1. Detail or example from your note cards (with source)

2. Detail or example from your note card (with source)

3. Detail or example from your note card (with source) – if needed

B. Subtopic from main point #1 _____

1. Detail or example from your note cards (with source)

2. Detail or example from your note cards (with source)

3. Detail or example from your note cards (with source) – if needed

(Additional Subtopics may be added.)

Concluding sentence and lead-in about how the details or examples for main point #1 support the thesis

V. Conclusion