



Outlining an Essay

based off the Basic Harvard Outline Format

*A key to good writing is having a clear and logical organization so the reader can follow your argument.
Creating an outline for your essay is one way to do this*

Template:

I. Introduction

- A. Attention Getter: what is the frame of my essay?
- C. Overview of main points: what will this paper do?
- D. Thesis Statement: what is the purpose of this paper?



Careful not to "list" your points like in a traditional speech format. Introduce the main points of your paper in an engaging yet clear way to the reader

II. Main Point 1- start with Topic Sentence

- A. Assertion- Explanation of Author's Argument
- B. Supporting Evidence
 - 1. Evidence 1
 - a. Sub-point of evidence 1
 - b. Sub-point of evidence 1
 - 2. Evidence 2
- C. Importance: why am I talking about this?
- D. Transition Sentence into Point 2



Your topic sentence should introduce the main idea you are making for that given point



There 4 main types of evidence:
1. Statistical Evidence
2. Testimonial Evidence
3. Anecdotal Evidence
4. Analogical Evidence

III-IV. Repeat step II for all other Points

V. Conclusion

- A. Summary of points
 - 1. Explain the bigger implication of the points you've discussed
 - 2. Explain how all the points relate back to the thesis
- B. Restate thesis in a new way: why should the reader care about what you just argued?
- C. Strong Closing Statement



A conclusion is not only a summary. While you should not raise any new points in the conclusion, you can ask questions about the implications of your paper or provide further points of inquiry. Use the conclusion to ask "what else can we do with what I just argued?"