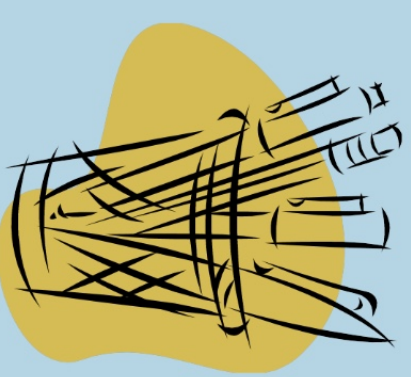


Outlines Not Your Thing?

Try a Reverse Outline!

Sometimes when writing an essay you just want to get started and have some words written down on your paper. Go ahead! Once you've written your essay, read through each paragraph and write a sentence to summarize what you have written. Now, reread your essay. Do the sentences make sense in that order? If not, rearrange them and in turn your paragraph as well!



FYI- your outline does not have to perfectly reflect the template we have provided. This is your paper, do what makes the most sense to YOU!

Essay Outline Template

- I. INTRODUCTION
 - A. Background Information
 1. General background information that grabs attention (reference)
 2. More specific background information to lead into the thesis (reference)
 - B. Thesis statement
 1. Topic
 2. Outline your key points
- II. BODY
 - A. Support Paragraph 1
 1. Thesis statement
 2. Supporting Ideas
 - a. Reason/Detail/Fact and transition (reference)
 - b. More information and transition (reference)
 - c. Maybe even more information (reference)
 3. Summarizing/Concluding/Transition sentence
 - B. Support Paragraph 2
 1. Thesis statement
 2. Supporting Ideas
 - a. Reason/Detail/Fact and transition (reference)
 - b. More information and transition (reference)
 - c. Maybe even more information (reference)
 3. Summarizing/Concluding/Transition sentence

Outline Template

Shown above is a template for how you could set up your outline. By highlighting the main idea you are providing direction and support for the thesis of your essay. By using this outline as a guide while cultivating your thoughts, you can begin to identify where ideas belong. During this process, you can easily see the logical flow of your writing. This will help you identify areas that need to be expanded or edited out of your essay. Personally, I just write down my main idea for each paragraph and indent all of my supporting ideas. Remember, this is just one example of an essay outline, feel free to be creative when constructing your own!