

Outlining an Essay

I. Introduction

A. Hook (draw the reader in with an arresting statement, a valuable quote, a statement you will contradict, a good question, a necessary fact, etc.) :

B. Details and Background Information

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

These details should build toward the thesis.

C. Thesis statement (This is a focused, specific statement that captures exactly what the essay will prove.):

II. Body Paragraph I Focus: _____

A. Topic Sentence (Sets the specific focus for this paragraph--this will be a subtopic of the larger thesis):

B. Supporting Example (this is a specific point you will make or example you will offer to support the topic sentence): _____

C. Quote (this will help to prove the supporting example--SET UP THE QUOTE--this means identify the speaker as well as the context of the quote before you drop it in)

1. Quote context/setup

2. " _____

_____ " (Smith 5).

3. Follow-up on quote: explain why the quote is significant--how it proves your point

D. Repeat (if you have another quote or paraphrase or supporting information for this specific paragraph and subtopic)

III. Body Paragraph II Focus: _____

A. Topic Sentence (Sets the specific focus for this paragraph--this will be a subtopic of the larger thesis):

B. Supporting Example (this is a specific point you will make or example you will offer to support the topic sentence): _____

C. Quote (this will help to prove the supporting example--SET UP THE QUOTE--this means identify the speaker as well as the context of the quote before you drop it in)

1. Quote context/setup

2. " _____

_____ " (Smith 5).

3. Follow-up on quote: explain why the quote is significant--how it proves your point

D. Repeat (if you have another quote or paraphrase or supporting information for this specific paragraph and subtopic)

IV. Body Paragraph III Focus: _____

A. Topic Sentence (Sets the specific focus for this paragraph--this will be a subtopic of the larger thesis):

B. Supporting Example (this is a specific point you will make or example you will offer to support the topic sentence): _____

C. Quote (this will help to prove the supporting example--SET UP THE QUOTE--this means identify the speaker as well as the context of the quote before you drop it in)

1. Quote context/setup

2. " _____

_____ " (Smith 5).

3. Follow-up on quote: explain why the quote is significant--how it proves your point

D. Repeat (if you have another quote or paraphrase or supporting information for this specific paragraph and subtopic)

V. Conclusion Paragraph

A. Sum up main points

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

B. Sum up their significance

C. A thought for the reader