

ESSAY OUTLINE TEMPLATE WORKSHEET

Outlines can be challenging to build!

This worksheet suggests some *options* for elements you could include in an essay outline.

Keep in mind that you can customize this template to reflect elements you want to include in your essay, and removing elements that aren't necessary or appropriate in your particular course/ discipline.

This template is just a starting point! You do not need to include every element listed here. Instead, use this as a tool to provide some structure or to help you get started with creating outlines on your own.

INTRODUCTION

Ways to start an introduction and grab your reader's attention

- Interesting anecdote
- Quotation
- Broad statement to introduce the general topic area

Key content elements:

- Main topic or idea the essay addresses
- Thesis or main argument
- Brief description of what evidence/examples will be in the body of the essay (or, a preview of what the reader can expect to find in the rest of the paper)

BODY PARAGRAPHS_

For each paragraph:

Ways to begin and end your paragraphs

- Introductory sentence (how you'll begin the paragraph):
- Concluding or transition sentence (how you'll conclude the paragraph):

Key content elements

- Main topic, idea, or example this paragraph focuses on:
- Evidence to prove this idea or example:
- How this idea or example connects to the main thesis or argument:

Other types of paragraphs you might include

- Background and context for your argument or examples
- Literature review or explanation of how other scholars have addressed this question or issue
- Definitions or particular terms or ideas the reader will need to understand the rest of the paper

CONCLUSION

Key content elements

- Restatement of your thesis, main point, or main argument:
- Reminder of the main ideas, examples, or evidence you have included in your essay:

Ways to end your conclusion or wrap up your paper

- Broad statement opening towards general ideas:
- Suggestion of future areas of research or ways that other scholars could address this topic:
- Acknowledgment of gaps in the research or issues that haven't been addressed yet:
- Reflection on how why the topic addressed in the essay matters or is important: