

Essay Outline

APSU Writing Center Handout

Always follow your instructor's specific requirements for essays.

Introduction

Hook/Context: In 1–2 sentences, introduce the subject.

The Topic: In 1–2 sentences, clearly explain what the paper is about.

Main Points: Briefly name the two or three reasons for the paper.

Thesis/Main Argument: In one sentence, give your clear position on the topic.

Body Paragraphs (repeat until the paper meets the length requirements)

Topic Sentence: In one sentence, introduce your first reason that supports the thesis.

Evidence: In 1–2 sentences, provide supporting evidence such as facts and quotes.

Analysis: In 2–3 sentences, explain how this evidence proves your point.

Transition: In 1 sentence, wrap up and lead to the next paragraph.

Conclusion

Restatement of Thesis: In one sentence, restate your thesis in new words.

Larger Picture: In 2–3 sentences, explain why this issue matters long-term.

Call to Action (if needed): Encourage reflection or action.