

What is an outline?

- A way to organize my thoughts, facts, and ideas into a structure so I can see relationships of facts and information.

Here's how you would complete one...

- Each person should have at least 5 sections to their outline: introduction, minimum of three body paragraphs, and conclusion.
- Introduction--preview main ideas (movie trailer) & include a **thesis statement**
 - A **thesis statement** offers a concise summary of the main ideas (research questions) and usually comes at the **end** of an introductory paragraph. Again, it will make reference to your topic and the overall main idea that you wish to illustrate to the reader.
 - Give a little bit of background information on your topic
 - Define important concepts or vocabulary
 - Give some historical background or context
- Body Paragraphs
 - Your research questions guide your body paragraphs (they are your main points)
 - Minimum of three (although you'll likely have more)
 - **One main idea/thought** per body paragraph
 - Go through research logs, chunk together similar information that would illustrate the specific main idea for that body paragraph
 - Put that information in a logical order; put it on the outline in that order
- Conclusion
 - Last paragraph
 - Summarizes the research paper and its main points
 - Presents main idea(s) once again
 - Gives an overall solution to a problem or given argument in the paper

Outline Model

- I. Introduction
 - A. Preview main points (research questions)
 1. Research Question 1 (main point 1)
 2. Research Question 2 (main point 2)
 3. Research Question 3 (main point 3)
 - B. Thesis Statement
- II. Body Paragraph 1 (research logs)
 - A. Fact 1
 - B. Fact 2
 1. Sub-point 1
- III. Body Paragraph 2
- IV. Body Paragraph 3
- V. Conclusion
 - A. Sum up/restate main ideas
 - B. Give a possible solution