

# Simple Paper Outline

Most professors will ask you to create an outline for your paper, but an outline can help you keep your thoughts organized and allow your paper to flow easily. Follow this simple outline to get started:

## I. Introduction

- a. Introduce your topic, use an attention grabbing type of sentence, a quote, or statistic
- b. Provide some brief background information about your topic (be sure to cite any sources used here)
- c. Thesis statement- state your position on the topic, and briefly outline your evidence-based reasons that back up your position

## II. Body

### a. Point 1

- i. Present your evidence (remember to cite any sources used here)
- ii. Consider any alternate viewpoints that may exist
- iii. Explain how the evidence relates to your thesis and standpoint on the topic

### b. Point 2

- i. Give your evidence (citing any sources used, as always)
- ii. Consider those alternate viewpoints, if any
- iii. Explain the evidence and its relation to your thesis

### c. Point 3

- i. Provide the evidence (cite those sources!)
- ii. Consider any alternate viewpoints
- iii. Explain the evidence and how it relates to your thesis (remember every explanation should always point back to your thesis)

## III. Conclusion

- a. Summarize the topic and your position
- b. Explore the implications of any points you made or raised throughout the paper
- c. Consider any practical applications to your findings

Every point that you make in your paper, should always point back to your thesis. Try not to get side-tracked or lost in thought. Use the outline as a set of guidelines to help you stay on track.

# Simple Paper Outline Worksheet

## I. Introduction

a. *Attention Grabber/ Paper Hook:*

---

b. *Background:*

---

c. *Thesis Statement:*

---

## II. Body

a. *Point 1*

i. *Evidence:*

---

ii. *Alternate Views:*

---

iii. *Relation to Thesis:*

---

b. *Point 2*

i. *Evidence:*

---

ii. *Alternate Views:*

---

iii. *Relation to Thesis:*

---

c. *Point 3*

i. *Evidence:*

---

ii. *Alternate Views:*

---

iii. *Relation to Thesis:*

---

## III. Conclusion

a. *Summarize topic/ position:*

---

b. *Explore the implications of your findings/ ideas:*

---

c. *Consider any practical implications of your findings/ ideas:*

---