

The Essay Outline

An essay outline is considered as the most important part in writing your essay. It is the skeleton of your ideas, and the framework by which you'll write an impressive essay.

An essay outline is an organizational plan for your writing that explains how you are going to move from one supporting paragraph to another, and how you are going to get where you want. An essay outline gives you confidence and helps you realize you know what you are talking about. Essay outlines will make drafting less stressful by describing the relationship of your ideas to each other as well as to the question or thesis.

Thesis Statement

The thesis statement for a persuasive paper is a declaration which tells the reader how he/she should think about the subject. It is written as a statement:

- *The National Hockey League needs to severely punish players for body checks to the head.*
- *The Canadian government should re-introduce mandatory military service for its youth after high school graduation.*
- *With the increasing numbers of immigrants to PEI, Island schools must offer English as an Alternate Language (EAL) courses in every school.*

Subordinate Points

So how can you construct your own essay outline? First and foremost, you'll have to read the notes on writing persuasive essays. By this point, you have already chosen your thesis, which ends your introductory paragraph. Now, you have to develop three solid subordinate points which will support the thesis. When you have chosen your three subordinate points, you now have to rank them in order of importance (begin with the weakest and end with the strongest).

Supporting Details

Now that you have your three subordinate points chosen, it is time to see whether you can create a solid paragraph(s) for each. For each subordinate point, you should now attempt to list some supporting details. These supporting details must support their subordinate point which, in turn, supports the thesis. Supporting details will include facts, opinions, statistics, rhetorical devices, and whatever details are necessary for you to create a strong argument for each section of your paper. Each subordinate point should be linked to the next one through the use of transitional devices. The supporting details for each section will also include your use of research and in-text citations.

Once you are happy with what you have got, think of the sections of your essay that are weaker and try to improve them. This can be achieved by conducting some more research if necessary or determining if two weak sections can fit under one strong heading. If your points don't fit together with the thesis (main argument), don't be afraid to re-evaluate your thesis statement or find new supporting details. Your evidence may be convincing but if it supports a completely different thesis, your audience won't see the advantages of it as they are expecting something else.

Conclusion

Of course, this section bring conclusion to your paper. In the essay outline, the conclusion includes a re-stated thesis (the thesis statement written a different way). For MRHS essays, the essay outline conclusion section also must include your parting shot/rhetorical question/personal comment/call to action/rhetorical question/etc.

Developing an effective essay outline is the best planning tool for the construction of your essay. Once the outline has been completed, writing the essay should be very easy!

Essay Outline Format

- I Introduction:
 - Get the readers attention by using a "hook."
 - Give some background information if necessary.
 - Thesis statement.

- II First Argument or Reason to Support Your Position (Subordinate Point 1):
 - Topic sentence explaining your point.
 - Elaboration to back your point (supporting details).
 - Identify opposing point to your argument. Your elaboration should refute this opposing point.
 - Transition to next subordinate point

- III Second Argument or Reason to Support Your Position (Subordinate Point 2):
 - Topic sentence explaining your point.
 - Elaboration to back your point (supporting details).
 - Identify opposing point to your argument. Your elaboration should refute this opposing point.
 - Transition to next subordinate point

- IV Third Argument or Reason to Support Your Position (Subordinate Point 3):
 - Topic sentence explaining your point.
 - Elaboration to back your point (supporting details).
 - Identify opposing point to your argument. Your elaboration should refute this opposing point.
 - Transition to next subordinate point

- VI Conclusion:
 - Restate thesis statement.
 - Summary of main points or reasons.
 - Personal comment or a call to action. Write a strong, effective message that the reader will remember.