Research Paper Outline Template

Title of your research paper ________________________________________________

Thesis statement: ________________________________________________________

Introduction – The introduction should contain a “hook”, general quote, or interesting fact. You will then add two-three broad, general statements, and your thesis statement.

I. Introduction

A. Begin with an opening sentence that captures your reader’s attention. You might consider including the theme, a memorable quotation that relates to the topic, or asking a question. (HOOK)

________________________________________________________________________

B. Define topic

________________________________________________________________________

C. Then write a sentence that introduces the topic that you plan on discussing.

________________________________________________________________________

D. Write your thesis statement. Give a brief summary of each main idea of the topic that you plan on discussing (state each briefly - 2-3 sentences total). Then, as your last sentence, include the overall theme (or main idea) that connects all of these main ideas together under your one chosen topic as well as leading into the first main point that you will discuss in your paper (this is a transition sentence).

________________________________________________________________________

II. Topic sentence for main point

#1

A. Subtopic from main point #1

1. Detail or example from your research (with source)
i. Explain source’s connection to thesis in your own words

2. Detail or example from your research (with source)

ii. Explain source’s connection to thesis in your own words

3. Detail or example from your research (with source) – if needed

iii. Explain source’s connection to thesis in your own words

(Additional Subtopics may be added.)

B. Concluding sentence and lead-in about how the details or examples for main point #2 support the thesis

III. Topic sentence for main point #2

A. Subtopic from main point #2

1. Detail or example from your research (with source)

i. Explain source’s connection to thesis in your own words

2. Detail or example from your research (with source)

ii. Explain source’s connection to thesis in your own words

3. Detail or example from your research (with source) – if needed

iii. Explain source’s connection to thesis in your own words

(Additional Subtopics may be added.)

B. Concluding sentence and lead-in about how the details or examples for main point #3 support the thesis

IV. Topic sentence for main point #3
A. Subtopic from main point #3

1. Detail or example from your research (with source)

   i. Explain source’s connection to thesis in your own words

2. Detail or example from your research (with source)

   ii. Explain source’s connection to thesis in your own words

3. Detail or example from your research (with source) – if needed

   iii. Explain source’s connection to thesis in your own words

B. Concluding sentence and lead-into conclusion and include how all of the details or examples for main points #1, 2, and 3 support the thesis

V. Conclusion

1. Begin with a rephrased thesis statement (See introduction, final sentence).

2. Summarize the three main points you made in your body paragraphs. (minimum of 3 sentences)

3. End with an overall theme of your research paper, or an interesting fact.

Words Cited page