

Modern Muckraking Essay Outline

Paragraph I (Introduction)

What is your hook? (Unlike in an analytical essay, you want to lead with something catchy to get your readers' attention immediately.)

What information does the reader need about this topic? (What is the topic being discussed? What information is needed to give the reader enough background to understand the topic? This part should still be attention grabbing - briefly show/tell the reader that this is a problem worth paying attention to.)

Why do we or should we care about your topic? Why does it matter?

What will this essay explain and/or argue? What is the problem AND what needs to be done about it?
(This statement should make clear your opinion on your topic.)

Paragraph II (First Body Paragraph) – HISTORY? PROBLEMS?

What is the topic of this paragraph? (What specific point will this paragraph illustrate with three examples?)

What are the three examples that illustrate the specific topic? [Summarize each example AND analyze it (EXPLAIN what the evidence shows and how it supports your larger argument.)]

1.)

2.)

3.)

What statement wraps up this topic? AND How does this relate to your next paragraph? (What conclusion can be drawn from the examples from the examples in this paragraph? How does the topic of this paragraph connect to the topic of the following paragraph?)

Paragraph III (Second Body Paragraph) - PROBLEMS

What is the topic of this paragraph? (What specific point will this paragraph illustrate with three examples?)

What are the three examples that illustrate the specific topic? [Summarize each example AND analyze it (EXPLAIN what the evidence shows and how it supports your larger argument.)]

1.)

2.)

3.)

What statement wraps up this topic? AND How does this relate to your next paragraph? (What conclusion can be drawn from the examples from the examples in this paragraph? How does the topic of this paragraph connect to the topic of the following paragraph?)

Paragraph IV (Third Body Paragraph – OPTIONAL) – MORE PROBLEMS

What is the topic of this paragraph? (What specific point will this paragraph illustrate with three examples?)

What are the three examples that illustrate the specific topic? [Summarize each example AND analyze it (EXPLAIN what the evidence shows and how it supports your larger argument.)]

1.)

2.)

3.)

What statement wraps up this topic? AND How does this relate to your next paragraph? (What conclusion can be drawn from the examples from the examples in this paragraph? How does the topic of this paragraph connect to the topic of the following paragraph?)

Paragraph V (Conclusion) - SOLUTIONS

What phrase serves as a transition from the body of the paper? (What connection can you make from discussing the nuances of the problem itself into possible solutions to the problem?)

What concrete changes or suggestions are you proposing to fix this problem? You should have several. (Explain each of the proposed solutions in detail making sure to consider both what the govt./country can do AND how ordinary people can help as well.)

[Summarize each example]

What transition statement connects the above-mentioned solutions to the ideas expressed in the thesis statement? (Make the connection and then restate, in new terms, the thesis statement. Then add further reflections.)

What thought-provoking statement concludes the essay? Why is the topic of this essay important? (How can you broaden the scope of your discussion? Why should people care about this issue enough to get off their butts and act?)