

Research Paper Detailed Outline

Introduction

Write your first draft of your intro paragraph below:

Background Paragraph

TOPIC:

Topic sentence: *(Remember, because this is a background paragraph, the topic sentence and paragraph itself does not need to directly prove your thesis. Instead, provide more background information to better help the reader understand your argument.)*

What information does the reader need to understand before they are able to really grasp the argument that will come in the following paragraph(s)? *(Bullet that info below.)*

How can you wrap up the paragraph and transition into the next paragraph?

Analytical/Argumentative Paragraph

TOPIC:

Topic sentence: *(This should be an argumentative statement.)*

What are the 2-3 examples that illustrate the specific topic? *(Summarize each example, plug in the evidence you plan to use from your notes AND briefly explain how it supports your argument.)*

- 1.)
- 2.)
- 3.)

How can you wrap up the paragraph and transition into the next paragraph?

Conclusion

What more can now be said about the ideas expressed in the thesis statement? (*Restate, in new terms, the thesis statement & then add further reflections. Don't just cut and paste the intro verbatim!*)

How do you want to close the paper?

Try to do one of the following:

- *connect the topic to the larger historical or cultural picture*
- *state its significance to the time period*
- *relate it to later events or issues*
- *think of other questions to ask (related to the topic)*

This is your last chance to frame your ideas in a brief, convincing way. Reflect on what you have developed in your paper and have learned as a result of your research.