Research Paper Detailed Outline Details

By now, you should have completed the following steps in your research paper:

Step 1: Pick a subject & narrow it down into a topic.

Step 2: Write your central question and a rough thesis statement

Step 3: Gather sources and evidence and take notes.

Step 4: Prepare an initial outline

If you have NOT finished one of the steps above, in particular, the note-taking or intial outline, you MUST do these steps prior to moving on to the detailed outline.

The next step is to revise your initial outline and turn it into a more detailed outline.

- Look over the initial outline and feedback and decide if you need to adjust the organization of information. If necessary, figure out what additional info you would like to include and where it fits.

- Write your intro paragraph. You will most likely revise this a few times but this is your first attempt. Your intro should give the reader basic background on the topic you are discussing (including any important historical context or definition of terms that are important) and the paragraph should end with your thesis.

- Edit/revise/copy over your topic sentences from your initial outline. Remember, if you're writing a background paragraph, the sentence can be factual. If you're writing an analytical paragraph, the sentence should make an analytic argument that relates/helps support the thesis.

- Start sorting the evidence from your notes into the appropriate paragraphs.
    - Make sure you are clear on the difference between ideas, evidence and analysis. Your body paragraphs need all 3!
    - The **idea** is the broader topic, the **evidence** is the detail (quote, statistic, descriptive detail) that illustrates that topic, and the **analysis** is your explanation of how the evidence supports your topic sentence and the larger thesis.

- Write concluding sentences that summarize the argument made in the paragraph and which also then transition the reader into the next paragraph smoothly.

TEMPLATES

YOU ARE GOING TO CUSTOMIZE THE OUTLINE IN GOOGLE CLASSROOM TO FIT YOUR PLANNED # OF PARAGRAPHS.

OPEN YOUR INITIAL OUTLINE AND THEN MAKE THE DETAILED OUTLINE MATCH THAT. <u>COPY</u> AND PASTE AS MANY OF THE BLANK BACKGROUND OR ANALYTICAL PARAGRAPHS AS YOU NEED INTO THE OUTLINE.