

## I. Introduction

- A. **Hook:** Choose a strategy for catching a reader's attention: A surprising statistic, an illustrative story, a challenging statement, a quote that is fully explained and integrated into the essay (don't just drop a quote in).
- B. **Background:** Make sure everyone's on the same page in terms of the history, definitions, and/or theories on which the rest of the paper depends.
- C. **Thesis:** A thesis clearly states your position/claim with a few supporting points/reasons (typically 2-4 reasons that align with your body paragraphs).

## II. Body

- A. **Supporting point 1:** The first reason to support your thesis.
  - 1. **Topic sentence:** The main point of the paragraph.
    - a. Evidence from one source to support the main idea.
    - b. Evidence from another source to support the main idea.
  - 2. **Concluding sentence:** The significance of the point (so what?)
- B. **Supporting point 2:** The second reason to support your thesis.
  - 1. **Topic sentence:** The main point of the paragraph.
    - a. Evidence.
    - b. Evidence.
  - 2. **Concluding sentence:** The significance of the point (so what?)
- C. **Supporting point 3:** The third reason to support your thesis.
  - 1. **Topic sentence:** The main point of the paragraph.
    - a. Evidence.
  - 2. **Concluding sentence:** The significance of the point (so what?)

Synthesize evidence from multiple sources to strengthen your reasoning. Make sure to cite all your evidence whether quoting or paraphrasing.

Each of these sections can be one or multiple paragraphs

## III. Counterargument

- D. **Fair shake:** use an actual competing position from an actual source (not a "strawman" argument) and describe the position in a respectful tone
- E. **Response to the counterargument:** Use *one* of the following strategies
  - 1. **Rebuttal:** Point out the logical fallacies of the counter argument.
  - 2. **Partial concession:** Concede some points, but explain why your main thesis still stands (the "yes...but" strategy).

## IV. Conclusion

- A. **Summary:** Reiterate the main point (do not repeat the thesis verbatim)
- B. **Applications:** How your point can be applied to the real world.
  - 1. A call to action that inspires the reader to do something about it.
  - 2. A call for additional research on your topic.
- C. **Implications:** The big "So what?"
  - 1. An explanation of why your position is crucial to the world (long and broad view).
  - 2. A prediction that explains the consequences of your position. (e.g., "If society does not take action..." or "If we take action...")

# Outlining Worksheet

## I. Introduction

A. **Hook:** \_\_\_\_\_

B. **Background:** \_\_\_\_\_

C. **Thesis: Claim:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Supporting points*

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Body

A. **Supporting point 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. *Topic sentence:* \_\_\_\_\_

a. Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Concluding sentence:* \_\_\_\_\_

B. **Supporting point 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. *Topic sentence:* \_\_\_\_\_

a. Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Concluding sentence:* \_\_\_\_\_

C. **Supporting point 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. *Topic sentence:* \_\_\_\_\_

a. Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Concluding sentence:* \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Counterargument

A. **Fair shake:** My actual source is: \_\_\_\_\_

B. **Response:** (Circle one) *Rebuttal* or *Partial concession*

## IV. Conclusion

A. **Summary:** \_\_\_\_\_

B. **Applications:** \_\_\_\_\_

C. **Implications:** \_\_\_\_\_