Outline Template

I. Introduction: Your thesis statement is the central argument of your essay, the claim your essay will support with evidence. It should appear towards or at the end of your introduction.

I. Begin a new paragraph with a topic sentence that supports your thesis and expresses the main idea of that section.

A. Supporting Idea
   1. Evidence: quotation, paraphrase, or summary.
   2. Explain evidence - brief notes connecting evidence to topic sentence and thesis. Include in-text/parenthetical citation (MLA & APA) or footnote (Chicago) immediately after the quotation.

B. Support
   1. Evidence, with citation
   2. Explain evidence

C. Support C, D, etc. Add as many paragraphs as needed to support each section.

II. Topic Sentence

A. Support
   1. Evidence, with citation
   2. Explain evidence

B. Support
   1. Evidence, with citation
   2. Explain evidence

III. Topic Sentence

A. Support
   1. Evidence, with citation
   2. Explain evidence

B. Support
   1. Evidence, with citation
   2. Explain evidence

IV. And so on… Add as many sections of support as you’ll need to prove your thesis. End with a separate paragraph of conclusion.
What is the point of creating an outline?

Why are “topic sentences” important? What should you consider when organizing your outline?

What is “evidence”? Why is it important in your research and writing?  
*Give examples and explain how providing evidence in an outline is useful for completing the final paper.*

**Writing Tip:**
You need answers (evidence) to support your topic sentence.

But, how do you find them?

Start by writing the questions whose answers will support your arguments.

Put these questions next to the topic sentence until you find the right answers. Knowing the questions up front will help you find the best evidence to truly support your thesis.

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**Conclusion (1)** *Summarize* how the evidence in your body paragraphs supports the thesis -AND- **2)** *Bracket Out*: explain why the questions your essay addresses are universally important. Leave the reader thinking about the broader implications of your argument.