

Basic Research Paper Outline

- I. Introduction (Write this last.)
 - a. Interesting fact to draw in your audience
 - b. Main points that you plan to address
 - c. Thesis Statement (You will have to develop this before you get started with the research.)
 - II. Body paragraph
 - a. Main Point #1
 - b. Supporting information
 - i. This should come from the outside sources that you consult.
 - ii. Include citations.
 - c. Be sure to make a clear connection to your thesis.
 - d. Be sure to include a clear transition sentence indicating that you are moving from this topic to the topic in the next paragraph.
 - III. Body Paragraph
 - a. Sub point (You may use several of these after each major point.)
 - b. Supporting information
 - i. Info from the outside sources.
 - ii. Include citations.
 - c. Connection to your thesis.
 - IV. Body paragraph
 - a. Main Point #2
 - b. Supporting information
 - i. Info from the outside sources.
 - ii. Include citations.
 - c. Connection to your thesis.
 - d. Clear transition sentence ending this topic and introducing the new topic to be discussed in the next paragraph.
 - V. Body paragraph
 - a. Main Point #3
 - b. Supporting information
 - i. Info from the outside sources.
 - ii. Include citations.
 - c. Connection to your thesis.
- Your paper may have more body paragraphs/points than illustrated in this example.**
- VI. Conclusion
 - a. Wrap up the information that you have already discussed.
 - i. This is not the place to introduce new information.
 - ii. Anything that you mention here should have been discussed elsewhere in the paper.
 - b. What did you learn overall from your research?
 - c. Did your findings prove or disprove your thesis?
 - d. Do you see any possibilities for additional research in this area?