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?