

Analytical Essay Outline Template

Title: [Insert Your Working Title Here]

I. INTRODUCTION (10-15% of total word count)

- **A. Hook:** [Attention-grabbing opening: a provocative question, a striking quote, or a surprising fact related to your topic.]
- **B. Context:** [Provide 2-3 sentences of essential background. Introduce the text, author, or subject you are analyzing.]
- **C. Thesis Statement:** [Your main analytical claim. State clearly what you intend to prove in this essay.]

II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1 (25-30% of total word count)

- **A. Topic Sentence (T):** [State the first analytical point that supports your thesis.]
- **B. Evidence #1 (E):** [Insert a quote, specific example, or data point here. Include the citation/page number.]
- **C. Analysis (A):** [Explain HOW this evidence proves your topic sentence and WHY it matters to the overall argument.]
- **D. Evidence #2 (E):** [Insert a second piece of supporting evidence for this same point.]
- **E. Analysis (A):** [Interpret this second piece of evidence and explain its significance.]
- **F. Link (L):** [Summarize the paragraph's main point and connect it back to your thesis or transition to Paragraph 2.]

III. BODY PARAGRAPH 2 (25-30% of total word count)

- **A. Topic Sentence (T):** [State the second analytical point that supports your thesis.]
- **B. Evidence #1 (E):** [Insert quote or example with citation.]
- **C. Analysis (A):** [Explain the "How" and "Why" of this evidence.]
- **D. Evidence #2 (E):** [Insert additional quote or example.]
- **E. Analysis (A):** [Interpret the evidence and relate it back to the paragraph's claim.]
- **F. Link (L):** [Bridge this idea to the next paragraph.]

IV. BODY PARAGRAPH 3 (25-30% of total word count)

- **A. Topic Sentence (T):** [State the third analytical point that supports your thesis.]
- **B. Evidence #1 (E):** [Insert quote or example with citation.]
- **C. Analysis (A):** [Explain the "How" and "Why" of this evidence.]
- **D. Evidence #2 (E):** [Insert additional quote or example.]
- **E. Analysis (A):** [Interpret the evidence.]
- **F. Link (L):** [Final connection to the thesis before moving to the conclusion.]

V. CONCLUSION (10-15% of total word count)

- **A. Restate Thesis:** [Rephrase your main claim in fresh language. Do not copy and paste it from the introduction.]
- **B. Synthesis:** [Briefly show how your three main body points work together to support your conclusion.]
- **C. Broader Significance:** [Explain why this analysis matters in a larger context (e.g., its impact on society, literature, or history).]
- **D. Final Thought:** [End with a memorable closing insight or a "call to action" for the reader's thoughts.]

Quick Structure Checklist

- [] Is my **Analysis** at least twice as long as my **Evidence**?
- [] Does every **Topic Sentence** connect back to my **Thesis**?
- [] Have I included **Citations** for every piece of evidence?
- [] Did I avoid adding **New Information** in the conclusion?

