

# Essay Outline Template

A structured framework for organizing essays before drafting. Includes sections for thesis development, topic sentence planning, evidence notes, analysis reminders, and adaptable formats for 3-paragraph, 5-paragraph, and extended essay structures.

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## 1. Thesis Development

**Working Thesis:**

→ \_\_\_\_\_

**Scope (time period, case, group):**

→ \_\_\_\_\_

**Main supporting points (2–4):**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 

## 2. Topic Sentence Planning

**Body Paragraph 1 – Topic Sentence:**

→ \_\_\_\_\_

**Body Paragraph 2 – Topic Sentence:**

→ \_\_\_\_\_

**Body Paragraph 3 – Topic Sentence:**

→ \_\_\_\_\_

(Extend as needed for longer essays.)

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## 3. Evidence Notes

Use these lines to list key evidence you will integrate.

- Evidence for Paragraph 1:  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Evidence for Paragraph 2:  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Evidence for Paragraph 3:  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 

## 4. Analysis Reminders

Before drafting, note what your analysis should highlight:

- Why the evidence matters
- How it connects to your topic sentence
- How it supports your thesis
- What implications or insights it reveals

**Analysis notes:**

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

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## Outline Formats

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### A. 3-Paragraph Essay Structure

#### Paragraph 1 — Introduction

- Hook
- Context or background (optional)
- Thesis statement

#### Paragraph 2 — Body Paragraph

- Topic sentence
- Evidence
- Analysis
- Closing or transition

#### Paragraph 3 — Conclusion

- Restate thesis (new wording)
  - Synthesize main ideas
  - Final insight or significance
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## **B. 5-Paragraph Essay Structure**

### **Introduction**

- Hook
- Background/context
- Thesis statement

### **Body Paragraph 1**

- Topic sentence
- Evidence
- Analysis
- Transition

### **Body Paragraph 2**

- Topic sentence
- Evidence
- Analysis
- Transition

### **Body Paragraph 3**

- Topic sentence
- Evidence
- Analysis
- Transition

### **Conclusion**

- Restated thesis
  - Synthesis of key points
  - Closing thought
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## **C. Extended Essay Structure (6+ Paragraphs)**

## **Introduction**

- Hook
- Background
- Thesis

## **Multiple Body Paragraphs**

Repeat for each paragraph:

- Topic sentence
- Evidence
- Analysis
- Counterpoint (optional)
- Transition

## **Counterargument Paragraph (optional)**

- Opposing view
- Rebuttal supported by evidence

## **Conclusion**

- Revised thesis restatement
- Synthesis of argument
- Broader implications