

## **Sample Outline of a Definition Essay**

### **Samples of Actual Definition Essays**

#### **OUTLINE - Patriotism Definition Essay**

##### **I. Introduction**

- A. Attention getter: Traditional definition of patriotism (as perceived in an image)
- B. Thesis: Patriotism is speaking out when a person feels the country is right or wrong, voting, campaigning, and respecting others.

##### **II. Body**

- A. Speaking out when country is wrong
  - 1. Vietnam
  - 2. Slavery
  - 3. Women's right to vote
- B. Speaking out when country is right
  - 1. Afghanistan
  - 2. Health care
- C. Voting
  - 1. Making a choice based on one's needs
  - 2. Being involved in the voting process
- D. Campaigning
  - 1. Finding a candidate who represents country's needs
  - 2. Barbara Boxer from California
- E. Respecting others
  - 1. Paying taxes.
  - 2. Respecting others' points of view
  - 3. Arab-American prejudice after 9/11.

##### **III. Conclusion**

- A. Review of patriot as protestor, voter, and respectful citizen.
- B. Closing attention getter: return to introduction's image of patriot