

Research Essay Outline

The Research Essay Outline is worth 10% of your final grade.

The purpose of the Research Essay Outline is to choose and confirm a topic for your research essay and oral presentation. Topics can include issues from current affairs and your career or study goals.

CHOOSING A TOPIC

Choose an issue on which people's opinions may differ. Then, make an argument for your position that is well supported by logic and facts.

A good way to find such a topic is to look for “either-or” questions. For example,

- Are childhood vaccinations good or bad?
- Are GMO foods harmful or beneficial?
- Is home-schooling a good alternative to regular schooling or not?
- Is prison time a deterrent to crime or not?
- Is it better to rent or own an accommodation?

Note: The following subject areas cannot be used for the essay outline or essay itself: abortion, euthanasia, death penalty or religion.

OUTLINE TEMPLATE

- A. **Thesis Statement** (Can be more than one sentence. Sets out the topic of your essay, your position on it, and how you will support this position in the essay.)
- B. **Paragraph #1:** Topic Sentence (Introduces the focus of the paragraph and develops the idea previewed in the Thesis Statement.)
1. Supporting fact and source
 2. Supporting fact and source
 3. Supporting fact with source
 4. Paragraph conclusion

C. Paragraph #2: Topic Sentence

1. Supporting fact with source
2. Supporting fact with source
3. Supporting fact with source
4. Paragraph conclusion

D. Paragraph #3: Topic Sentence

1. Supporting fact with source
2. Supporting fact with source
3. Supporting fact with source
4. Paragraph conclusion

E. Essay Conclusion (Takes reader back to the main idea by providing a rephrased Thesis Statement, and wraps up the argument by tying together the point the writer set out to prove and the main ideas in the paragraphs' topic sentences. Does not introduce new information.)

GRADING CRITERIA

Your outline must provide the “skeleton” of a Research Essay by demonstrating a well-supported argument, a logical organization of ideas, and a clear progression from Thesis Statement to Essay Conclusion. Your Essay Outline must include:

- All outline components as shown in the Outline Template.
- Sentence format.
- Sources for your facts.

In addition, you must:

- Write sentences that are clear, concise, and coherent.
- Ensure that your outline is free or has very few grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling errors.
- Include the title, your first and last names, course code, and course section at the head of the document.
- Use 12” Times New Roman or Arial font, double-space, and format margins at 2.54 cm (normal range).

SAMPLE OUTLINE

This sample outline is based on the following either-or essay question: Does “motherese,” i.e., the exaggerated way people talk to infants, play an important role in babies’ social and language development or not?

Sample Thesis Statement

Motherese, the words and sounds that parents worldwide use with tiny infants, may sound silly and even stupid to some people.¹ However, research shows that baby talk actually benefits infants’ learning² by attracting their attention, teaching them about social interaction, and helping them build language skills.³

1. Introduces essay topic and one stance.
2. Introduces the writer’s opposing stance.
3. Outlines the basic elements or a “road map” of what will be in the essay.

Sample 1st Paragraph

Topic Sentence: *Babies pay more attention to motherese than regular conversation.*

1. **Supporting fact with source:** *Motherese attracts infants because it is “characterized by a higher pitch range than in normal adult conversation” (Fernald, 1985).*
2. **Supporting fact with source:** *Motherese is preferred by infants to regular adult conversation (Cooper and Aslin 1990).*
3. **Supporting fact with source:** *Brain research demonstrates that motherese increases blood flow to the frontal area of the brain even when the baby is sleeping (Dewar, 2014).*
4. **Paragraph conclusion:** *Motherese is a way of speaking that functions to hold infants’ attention and has a cognitive effect on their development.*

Sample Essay Conclusion

In conclusion, this essay has demonstrated that motherese is not a trivial factor in the social and language development of infants. Arguably, talking “silly” to babies turns out to be as important to learning as a college education.

Rubric for Research Essay Outline

Outline	TOTAL POINTS	YOUR POINTS
Three part, persuasive thesis on an acceptable topic	2	
Three clear and specific topic sentences that develop logically from the thesis	1.5	
Three supporting points for each topic that demonstrate logical organization and clear progression with research sources	4	
Grammar and format	2.5	
Grade	10	