**Rough Outline…Outline**

Writing the outline is something that many college students despise. Some question the necessity of an outline, while others simply don’t want to put the time and effort into writing an outline when they could just start writing the paper. However, many professors require an outline with any large paper, and for good reason. An outline can help the author in a few ways. For one thing, an outline can help the writer focus on one central topic, as opposed to being rather vague with a broad topic. Another benefit of an outline is that it can help the writer stay on track with the topic at hand.

Below, I’ve provided you all with a basic template of an outline for your Research Paper. Please note that this is a rough outline, meaning this outline should help setup your rough draft - you will almost certainly add more to your outline when it comes to the final draft. I don’t expect you to have a complete view/idea of what your final draft will entail, but you need to start somewhere. For the rough outline, I want you to have **at least three body** **paragraphs**; your final draft will have many more than that, but for now, we’ll start with three.

Last Name #

First and Last Name

Ms. Juzwik

College Prep Writing: Period #

For your **introduction** paragraph, I want you to actually write out the full paragraph, but fit it to this outline structure and label each aspect accordingly.

Day Month Year

**Topic: What are you researching?**

**Research Question:** What question did you start out hoping to answer?

1. **Introduction**
   1. Potential Lead/Attention-Getter
   2. Background summary/Context
   3. Statement of the Relevant Problem/Issue (Why should people care about your issue/topic?)
   4. Thesis: What is point/goal/purpose/central idea of this paper? (answer the research question)
2. **Body Section (Headings and Subheadings for each section required)**
   1. Main idea/argument #1
      1. Topic Sentence
         1. Sentence that is your idea, your words
      2. Supporting Statement
         1. Connects your topic sentence with research
      3. Quote/Paraphrase from Research (ALL MUST BE CITED!!!)
         1. After delivering the researched info, spend a sentence or two explaining how the information supports your topic
      4. Your analysis/synthesis of the information provided
      5. Repeat steps 2-4 as necessary
   2. Main idea/argument #4, 5, 6, etc…
3. **Conclusion**
   1. Restate your thesis
      1. Be sure to state your thesis in a new way (don’t just repeat yourself)
   2. Recap main ideas in your essay (each topic sentence)
   3. Emphasis Statement
      1. Remind the reader why your topic is important