

The Structure of an Essay

One important aspect of the writing process involves creating an outline of your essay. You should create some kind of outline **before** writing the rough draft, and you may also find it helpful to outline your essay after writing the rough draft as you begin to revise. As a writer, you present your argument to the reader by means of a **thesis statement, position, and/or main idea**, and its development throughout the paper as a **series of claims**. Use this handout to identify/plan the structure of your essay. **Each claim should be supported with evidence from the text(s) or analysis of the text(s), and each claim should support or develop the initial thesis/idea.** You will, of course, have more paragraphs and claims in your papers than this handout allows, so think of this handout as a model or guide to develop your own outline.

I. Introduction: Thesis Statement/Position/Main Idea: _____

A. Claim/Topic Sentence: _____

1. Evidence/Quotation: _____

i. Analysis/Synthesis _____

2. Evidence: _____

ii. Analysis/Synthesis _____

B. Claim/Topic Sentence: _____

1. Evidence/Quotation: _____

i. Analysis/Synthesis) _____

C. Claim/Topic Sentence: _____

1. Evidence/Quotation: _____

i. Analysis/Synthesis _____

D. Claim/Topic Sentence: _____

1. Evidence/Quotation: _____

i. Analysis/Synthesis _____

II. Conclusion: Developed/Concluding Thesis/Position: _____
