

INSTITUTE WRITING PROGRAM

THE WRITING CENTER

Outlining a Paper

Intro

Start with a quick summary of the topic. Do not rely on clichés to start your paper (eg. “since the beginning of time” “everyone agrees that” “mankind has always been at war” etc.) Refer to the **Intro and Three Level thesis handout** for more help.

Body

Make sure that each paragraph transitions smoothly to the next.

Feel free to use as many examples per paragraph as you think are necessary, and don't be afraid to expand beyond five paragraphs.

Make sure to explain why each piece of evidence is important and how it works to strengthen your claim.

Conclusion

Address the implications of your argument; give the reader the consequences of your opinion. Instead of restating your introduction, consider including a memorable quotation, a thought provoking question that makes the reader think on the topic more deeply. A great place to discuss Level 3 if using the **Intro and Three Level Thesis Handout**.



Topic Sentence (specific point as it relates to the claim)

- Example:
- Explain Significance / Analyze:
- Example:
- Explain Significance / Analyze:

Wrap-Up With A Broader Sentence. Set up the transition.

Topic Sentence (specific point as it relates to the claim; transitions from point 1)

- Example:
- Explain Significance / Analyze:
- Example:
- Explain Significance / Analyze:

Wrap-Up With A Broader Sentence. Set up the transition.

Topic Sentence (specific point as it relates to the claim; transitions from point 2)

- Example:
- Explain Significance / Analyze:
- Example:
- Explain Significance / Analyze:

Wrap-Up With A Broader Sentence. Set up the transition.

