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FORMAT FOR RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINE

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- I. Introduction
  - A. Overview of the issue you are examining
  - B. Overview of what your paper will cover, and how this will be accomplished
  - C. Thesis statement
- II. The Issue
  - A. History behind the issue
  - B. Challenge posed by the issue
  - C. How the issue impacts society in general
  - D. Possible solutions to resolve the issue that occurred to you before conducting your research
- III. Literature Review
  - A. Theoretical/Exploratory literature (journal articles, textbooks)
    - 1. Overview/summary of each theory and/or explanation
    - 2. Relevance of each theory/explanation to the issue
    - 3. Application and utility of theoretical/exploratory findings to the issue
  - B. Empirical literature (journal articles) – For each study:
    - 1. Overview of the empirical study
    - 2. Summary of methodology
    - 3. Summary of the relevant/key findings related to the issue
    - 4. Critique of the study
      - a. Was it well thought out and designed?
      - b. Were seemingly appropriate methods utilized?
      - c. Were the findings applicable to your thesis?
        - 1) If so, how?
        - 2) If not, why?
  - C. Summary
    - 1. Cohesive summary of all relevant findings, theoretical, exploratory, and empirical
- IV. Recommendations
  - A. What can be learned from your research?
    - 1. Recommendations
    - 2. To whom or what are the recommendations relevant to, and why?
- V. Conclusion
  - A. Recap the importance of your topic (no new information!)
  - B. Revisit your thesis statement (did you find support or no support?)
  - C. Conclusions based upon information derived from the literature
- VI. Assessment of Research Paper Writing Process
  - A. How the procedures (i.e., steps followed) worked
  - B. What you learned
  - C. How this assignment may impact your career goals